

HUNDRED AND TWENTIETH
ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT OF
THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY
1995



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THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY
THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, ADYAR
MADRAS 600 020, INDIA

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Presidential Address

To the 120th Annual Convention of the Theosophical Society, Adyar,
26 December 1995

It is with great pleasure that I welcome all of you to this 120th Convention of the Theosophical Society, and wish you a happy stay in our beautiful headquarters at Adyar. This is a time when we can receive the inspiration of natural beauty and the stimulation of new ideas, and also an upliftment of the spirit to that plane of unity and joyous awareness that the touch of Reality brings.

May Those who are the embodiments of Love immortal bless with Their help and guidance this Society, founded to be a channel for Their work. May They inspire it with Their wisdom, strengthen it with Their power, and energize it with Their activity.

We meet here year after year for a happy renewal of mutual contacts and out of devotion to theosophical work. But as a harmonious community of wisdom-seekers, we must also learn to respond much more effectively to the world's needs. From the theosophical point of view, wisdom is not an end. It is a cure for every kind of suffering, individual or national, and is a dynamic, transforming power. Our Society's membership has the duty of nourishing the seeds of wisdom sown in its collective consciousness, and in our individual lives we must be living examples of enlightened conduct, which means conduct that is not productive of ills but, on the contrary, heals and regenerates human consciousness as a whole.

Let us cast a glance at what is taking place upon our earth. Technology has provided extraordinary comforts to people and is putting

endless commodities at their disposal. The same skill which floods the markets of the world is also overpowering the minds of vast numbers of men and women through sophisticated media, resulting in the widespread belief that a variety of material products is essential for happiness, and that it is worthwhile to employ a considerable part of energy and time to search the markets, acquire and possess attractive things. Consumerism has become not only a dominant attitude in human society, but the background philosophy of our age. Is it then surprising that the desire for gain and material assets which characterizes our age qualifies it as an outstandingly cruel, base, violent, and corrupt one?

Many times the founding of the Theosophical Society has been described as an attempt to stem the rising materialism of the nineteenth

century. In this last decade of the twentieth, we are in a position to look back and see how the changed conditions brought about by technological advancement have aggravated problems, and brought to the fore the tendency of the human mind to fall into deception and turn its back on peace and true happiness. It is easy to dismiss words such as 'consumerism' and 'materialism' after a quick look. We believe we know about them because we are living in the midst of the attitudes denoted by them. But closeness to the fact may be the very reason for not really grasping how far sensitivity is being destroyed by the consumerist outlook and by the acceptance of productivity as a blessing.

In earlier days, when life was simpler and people were content to live with a few necessary things, there was more space in the mind to feel, and to be empathetic towards others — not only other human beings, but the environment as a whole, including plants, animals, and the elements. Life proceeded at a more relaxed pace, leaving room for a certain amount of reflection and introspection. This is one reason why the religious quest has been linked with simplicity. But while playing the game of profit-making, heart and mind cannot be kept open and responsive. Values are thrown to the winds because ambition and desire for possession exert such pressure that gentler and more refined feelings do not survive. Then, addiction to material goods provides fertile soil for cultivating aggressive and selfish behaviour.

In this context, let us also note that the primitive urge to give vent to selfish tendencies — acquisitiveness, ruthlessness, violence and so forth — has so far been kept generally in check, not only by secular authority, but by religious injunctions and counsel, and also by certain conventions in society. These forces, secular, religious, and societal, as a whole did not tolerate a lifestyle without any restraints. On the other hand, they constituted a system of psychological and social rewards and punishments which put curbs on conduct. With widespread loss of faith in religious dogmas and instructions, and with many or most social conventions becoming obsolete, the limits formerly set on what can or cannot be done in society hardly exist today. Every form of behaviour finds justification under the general banner of personal freedom.

A new background philosophy has been conveniently projected to bolster up the current trend. It pretends that values are all relative: that they must suit the circumstances. Therefore, in the pursuit of business interests, integrity has no absolute value. In the exciting race to obtain breakthroughs in knowledge, compassion and kindness take a back seat. In the search for pleasure, which is thought of almost as a right, responsibility to the family and dependants is forgotten. The more we examine the attitudes which generate the problems of the day, the clearer it is that lack of feeling and concern for others is at their core, and sensitivity of feeling as well as of vision, which are the

foundation of ethics, are crushed out in the intensity of the modern hunt for material satisfaction and possession. Therefore ethical considerations are at the nadir, and relativism is widely adopted as a satisfying theory.

Theosophy presents an illuminating panorama of the evolutionary process and enough information about the nature of the manifested, material universes and the non-material Reality from which they emanate to convince all students, and even most of the members, that the source of happiness is not in material and external things. There is a spring of happiness deep within which never dries up. Therefore, all the pursuits resulting from enchantment with external objects are vain. They will never lead either to individual fulfilment or peace on earth. With a rich understanding of life such as Theosophy gives as their inheritance, members should set examples of simplicity for others in matters of possession and be correspondingly full of goodwill for all, living in brotherly relationship with the whole world. The Theosophist having no motives related to self cannot be other than brotherly.

The influence of a Theosophist's feelings and thoughts are naturally in the direction of sensitive care and respect for all life, not towards consumerism. If others were to see a worldwide group who live simply and happily, a group which eschews rivalry because it is not craving for possessions, and therefore it is harmonious, generous and cooperative, the practical effect, on the human mind may be incalculable.

What we do and are, the quality of our lives, and the ethical standards we maintain are of fundamental importance in the present circumstances because the world is in need of beaconlights to save it from wreckage.

Each one of us must ask himself or herself: Am I unconsciously or otherwise adopting the misguided attitudes of the world around me? In my personal life, am I caught in the rush to have the many things that others have, comforts, possessions and pleasures? Do I refrain from aggressive actions and remain free of the competitive spirit, because I realize that competition for things of little or no lasting worth is making the earth unsafe? Have I thought seriously about the implications of the theosophical teachings so that my main concern in life is to discover the true, inexhaustible inner source of happiness? Do right values form the background of my life, not as a theory, but in a living sense, so that my thoughts, emotions, and activities are just, true, and beneficial?

Similar questions must be put to oneself in respect of other values besides those we have mentioned. Members of the Theosophical Society engaged in business need to check their attitudes continually and ensure that although most of the world may discard uprightness as irrelevant to business, they stand for it and live it. 'What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?' Is the struggle to have ever more of the luxuries which cannot buy deep satisfaction of the heart, or loving relationships, or enlightenment of the

mind worthwhile? We know it is not. Then why taint one's soul and sacrifice the dignity of the pure heart and upright mind? Is it not better to acquire and possess less of the petty things of little value and gain more of the happiness and respect that virtue brings as its priceless gift?

Let us not imagine that we can set out on the spiritual journey or realize the truths of Theosophy without a sound ethical basis. Madame Blavatsky states that ethics are the soul of Theosophy. Every religion teaches ethics. The Christian commandments, the Yoga teachings on Yama and Niyama, the Buddhist precepts, and other teachings of the major religious schools are propounded to lay the foundation for higher mystical understanding and realization. Theosophists seeking divine wisdom cannot be ignorant of this or fail to set high standards of righteousness and compassionate living, being fully conscious that this is an important form of service in which we can and should engage ourselves.

Often, the service that is done with the hands is nullified by the forces generated by the mind. Hence, as members of the Society we cannot be content to perform certain acts of service like distributing books, giving talks, or doing philanthropic work while letting the mind be guided by false values which make it arrogant, self-concerned, without sensitivity towards others. When the heart is attached to possession and the hands distribute part of a surplus, it is not philanthropy. From the highest

theosophical point of view, service is self-sacrificing love made manifest. It is not an act which is born of thought such as 'A brother is in need and I shall give.' The loftiest and most theosophical attitude is to realize that there is no brother apart from me, no 'other' to whom I give. Actions which spontaneously well up from a non-conceptual, divisionless state of consciousness are truly good, deeply beneficial, because they are not polluted by the discriminating and therefore destructive attitudes of the mind. Universality is an all-embracing state where there is no room for the 'other'.

Although this state of spontaneous virtue may appear too lofty for us to practise, yet we must ponder and widen our minds and deepen our hearts to realize that truth and virtue are inherent in this barrierless, unitary state of being. To whatever extent we move inwardly in this direction we serve the world by elevating the quality of human consciousness. Then the example of our lives and actions will have a powerful influence for they will reflect the goodness within. Simplicity, rectitude, kindness and every other ethical attitude is born of that unitary state that is love.

We can all start from where we are, by examining whether we are following the selfish pattern of the world in relation to our family, profession, and social relationships, or whether we are attentive to what goes on within the mind, and moving a little closer all the time towards the true and lofty morality which is spontaneous,

unconscious of its own virtue, and therefore like a lamp that illumines itself while shedding the light by which others can walk safely.

Even though our total membership throughout the world is far from large, the strength of the Society's work lies in whether it is able to give to the world what it needs. As we said earlier, one of the crying needs of today's world is a morality based on the holistic perspective, a universal brotherhood which is felt and not just talked about, expressed through simplicity and absence of self-seeking. We need to open ourselves inwardly to the beauty, the sanctity, and the inner depths of significance in life—the whole of life as well as every individual existence, great or small. The sense of hurry, the strain of pursuing more and ever more, and the delusion that finding security means accumulating possessions, stand in the way of that opening of our inner being. Consciously, as a means of service, we must adopt a way of life which awakens the sensitivity of the soul and enhances our latent powers of perception and feeling in order to bring about a change in our surroundings. This is worth our attention and efforts, and what better place is there for a beginning than Adyar, beautiful Adyar, and what better time than this Convention to which we have come after letting go of our habitual attitudes and thoughts.

* * * * *

It is customary for the President to present every year to the delegates assembled at the Convention a

bird's-eye view of the work around the world. It is one way of realizing that every member, Lodge and Section is part of the larger world community of theosophical students and workers. It is easy to become preoccupied with the pressing tasks of the moment lying at our doorstep. Then we get lost in the relatively small concerns of the Lodge or group to which we belong and lose sight of the larger aims of the Society as a whole. Although the immediate tasks must be dealt with, and we cannot neglect the duty of communicating with those who are in our vicinity and neighbourhood, it is essential to be inwardly linked in consciousness with members and seekers of the truth throughout the world. Unity of consciousness precedes unity at the outer level of action. To realize this unity within and without it helps to know what our brothers and sisters are doing and thinking in the different Sections.

Last year I drew attention to the decrease in membership in several Sections, and the need to examine the causes and strengthen the work. The downward trend continues in some countries, but there is no further decline in the overall membership figure. In India, the membership has been growing at a slow, steady pace for several years. The total number is now 10,804, which is still small, not only in relation to the huge population of India, but also in proportion to the general influence of Theosophy and the Theosophical Society in this country.

There are 446 Lodges and Centres spread over 16 Federations in India.

During the year, the emphasis within the Indian Section was on Krishnamurti's approach to life. His birth centenary was celebrated in very many places, after thirty-five themes relating to learning about life were circulated. Lectures, dialogues and discussions were organized around these themes, and a special volume of the *Indian Theosophist* on Krishnamurti was issued in May 1995. The General Secretary, Mr M.P. Singhal, visited a number of Lodges along with his wife, and was supported by the touring done by a team of lecturers. As usual, conferences and study camps were organized throughout the country, including one in Varanasi on *The Key to Theosophy* which was attended by members from many Federations. Theosophical books were published in various Indian languages. Members and many non-members also have access to journals either in English or the local language.

In the neighbouring countries of Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh difficulties continue owing to political and economic conditions which obstruct expansion of theosophical activity and even ordinary, steady work. However, efforts are being made to put new life into the TS in Sri Lanka. Regular meetings take place at the headquarters in Colombo and Lodges are being activated in Kandy and other places. There is need for theosophical literature in the language of the country. In Bangladesh a new Lodge was chartered at Chittagong. Communication with this new Lodge as well as with the hundred-year-old Comilla Lodge is not easy. Books have

been sent to them with guidelines for the work.

The work in Malaysia was reactivated and sixteen new members joined Selangor Lodge. In Singapore public lectures and study classes take place regularly. The administrative procedures in all these areas have been improved.

In Indonesia regular activity takes place in the well-established Lodges, and new buildings were constructed for the Sala and Yogyakarta Lodges. Two members from Indonesia attended the International Convention in 1994, which helped to improve their contacts. The Australian Section has aided the publication of theosophical manuals in the Indonesian language.

Six new study groups were formed in the Philippines. A weekly radio programme called 'Golden Lessons in Living' was launched in Quezon City. 'Peace Ideas' is now on Internet's worldwide web. *The Theosophical Digest*, published by the Section is a valuable means of dissemination. Members are also active in the field of service and education, and quite a number of them are engaged in the work of the Theosophical Order of Service.

In Japan last April Mrs Emiko Tanaka, who was the leading figure, passed away after a long illness. Mr Jeff Clarke has taken over the responsibility. A new Lodge is being formed in Kyoto after the visit of Mr Pedro Oliveira, International Secretary. In Seoul, Korea, the Lodge meets twice a month for discussions, and Mr Lim, its president, talks to the members on fundamentals.

Much effort is being made by Vietnamese members in France to resuscitate the TS in Vietnam. Mr Huynh, former treasurer of the French Section, is regularly visiting the country, as a result of which there is renewed hope of starting some activities. An appeal has been made to members worldwide by the General Secretary of France to donate funds, large or small, to restart theosophical activity in Vietnam where we had about one thousand members before the communist takeover. Some of the old members still live there and are available to form a nucleus.

The Australian Section, under the guidance of its National President, Miss Joy Mills, increased its membership by ninety-one. This was the result of the initiatives taken, such as extensive travels by the National President, the establishment of a centre for conducting the School of Theosophy, and improved correspondence courses and public relations programmes. The highlight of the year for the Section was the Centenary Convention which took place in Sydney in January, with international guest speakers including Miss Ianthe Hoskins, Dr John Algeo, the past and present General Secretaries of the New Zealand Section, the Philippines General Secretary and myself. It was a memorable gathering centring around the theme of Theosophy as the signpost to the future. This was followed by another important event, namely the dedication of the Kuranda Theosophical Educational and Retreat Centre in the beautiful forested and hilly terrain of Queensland. The

Centre was dedicated early in February to the 'Service of All Life'. Cottages were built and prepared at a rapid pace and the second School of Theosophy was held there in April to study *The Secret Doctrine* and *The Mahatma Letters* under Miss Mills. The Theosophy-Science Group has regular programmes and brings out a newsletter of much interest, with Dr Hugh Murdoch at the helm.

In nearby New Zealand there is again a decrease in membership, but we hope that the trend will be reversed and an upward swing will take place as in Australia. The headquarters library has a good mailing service, and both members and non-members without access to Lodge libraries are benefited by borrowing privileges offered by the headquarters. Several visiting lecturers travelled during the year to the Lodges. The Christchurch property problem of which I made mention last year is still unsolved and the matter is in court. We are reminded by this and other similar happenings that prudence demands a certain amount of strictness in respect of the use and administration of TS property.

Passing over to Latin America, I would like to mention that conditions are marginally better in Cuba. Some Spanish members gave considerable aid by taking books, office items, food and clothes to Cuba. The annual convention took place at the headquarters in Havana, and members commemorated all the important theosophical days. A new feature was the study programmes for members only, aimed at stimulating a deeper

understanding of Theosophy and the inspiration to live the life. The General Secretary, Dr Lelia Pagola, reports that despite every difficulty they are determined to accomplish their duty as theosophists.

The summer school in Argentina as, well as gatherings organized in Buenos Aires and Montevideo, brought members from Argentina and Uruguay together. The General Secretary for Argentina, Miss Silvia Blajer, lectured in many places, and other workers visited Chile and Bolivia in order to help the work in those countries. The Argentine Section also had many programmes for youth. Other activities included placing books in libraries, promotion of theosophical publications, setting up of circles for peace and activating the Order of Service.

The work in Chile is continuing steadily. Introductory courses for the public and for new members has brought good results. There is a possibility of forming a new study group some eighty miles from Santiago. Plans envisage forming groups for teenagers and children to introduce them to theosophical viewpoints and start TOS activities.

Some new study groups have been formed in Bolivia and the Presidential Representative, Mrs Teresa Wayar, is hopeful of their developing into Lodges. Joint Lodge meetings in Cochabamba and national conferences brought the members together. They wish to form a Section as soon as possible. Peru also has steadily continued its work. They have not been able to find a sufficiently large place for public lectures and are

compelled to use their own small premises for all meetings. Yet two courses for the public were organized and created interest. A continuous programme for new members goes on for most of the year. Their bulletin was published only once during the year for lack of money but it has been placed in seventy sales points. They also plan to import books in Spanish and make them available at various bookstores.

In Uruguay the attempts to carry Theosophy outside the capital, Montevideo, are said to have failed. The General Secretary, Mrs Cestau, writes that the work in the capital itself suffers due to lack of trained workers, shortage of income and unity among members, and because of such problems expansion is not possible. However, the bright side is that a new group is steadily working to reinforce links and bring about developments. A weekly radio programme called 'New Humanity' explores the deeper aspects of Theosophy.

The Theosophical Publishing House in Brazil brought out six new books in Portuguese and has more in preparation. Special programmes are conducted to cover different areas of this huge country, and the summer school is held in a different place each year. Systematic contact is reported to be kept with Lodges and Study Centres. At the Theosophical Institute in Brasilia, a School of Theosophy was inaugurated with talks by Dr John Algeo and other visitors from the USA.

The Mexican Section's work is reported to be proceeding

satisfactorily. They have established a training programme for workers. The General Secretary, Miss Arroyo, visited all the Lodges and Centres, and they were happy to receive Mr Puig, General Secretary for Brazil. Work is going on regularly in Colombia. Miss Mariela Lasso, former General Secretary of the Colombian Section, was recently appointed as Presidential Representative for Venezuela where she has already done much to improve the work administratively and otherwise.

In the Central American area, there are Lodges in El Salvador, Guatemala and San José in Costa Rica. A reorganization is necessary in view of the serious communication difficulties, and it is proposed to have a Regional Association and a Presidential Agency instead of a widely spread, unwieldy Section.

The United States has the largest membership after India. At its headquarters 'Olcott', there is at least one programme every day, and many of these are made available later to the whole Section. Miss Mary Anderson, Mr Pedro Oliveira and other overseas visitors gave lectures in the Section. Fieldwork is done by a team of experienced lecturers who spoke in forty-one locations. Several new study centres were opened, but as in previous years, there was a decline in membership which now stands at 4,246. New groups are provided with a resource guide, the TPH catalogue, *The Theosophist* and *Adyar Newsletter*, the Olcott library list, various video and audio tapes and other material about the work they should do. There are special programmes in Spanish for the

Hispanic members resident in the United States.

The Olcott Institute, set up last year as the educational arm of the Section, has been active and is in the process of developing a curriculum which will cover theosophical classics, theosophical living and methods of presenting Theosophy. The Publishing House has brought out several new books, one of which has been selected by the Book of the Month Club, and others have been commended in other ways. There is a proposal to put the major theosophical journals from the earliest *Theosophist* on CD-Rom (data base). This will of course be of value to many others outside the US. Among the organizations cooperating with the National Society are the Krotona Institute of Theosophy, the Theosophical Book Gift Institute, the Theosophical Book Association for the Blind and the Theosophical Order of Service.

Work in Canada is continuing regularly and their magazine *The Light Bearer* is drawing compliments. The Theosophical Order of Service is being revived after a lapse of seven years. The French-speaking Lodges in Canada have activities in their own language, but work in friendly cooperation with the English-speaking ones.

Two large countries, Ghana and Nigeria, have the bulk of members in the West African Section. They live with enormous economic and political problems. Communication in these countries by mail and even more so by personal contacts is extremely difficult. But the members are devoted

and do their best. Apart from those in the two countries mentioned, there is one Lodge in Liberia and another in the Cameroons, which are English-speaking and therefore part of the West African Section, making a total of 353 members.

The convention took place at Accra and a workers' training course dealt with the fundamental teachings of Theosophy. It is reported that Slater Lodge in Monrovia has regular study meetings, and study is carried on at Bamenda in the Cameroons. The construction of the headquarters building in Accra is slowly proceeding. It will be a great asset to the work, for until now the office of the Section and its library had to be accommodated in the home of the General Secretary, Mr Paul Kwakyi. In July 1995, a disastrous flood damaged the books and documents. As a partial remedy, books are being despatched to them from Adyar as a gift.

The General Secretary for East and Central Africa expresses the hope of reviving theosophical work in Uganda, particularly as two veteran members of Nairobi have moved over to Kampala. In Kenya, there was an enquiry into the activities of the TS by a committee of the government, as part of an investigation into devil worship! There seem to be no adverse repercussions so far, but this points to the nature of the difficulties faced in some parts of the world. Miss Ianthe Hoskins was the guest speaker at the Section's annual convention in Zambia, along with Mr Tom Davis, General Secretary of the TS in Southern Africa. Miss Hoskins also travelled to other places

in Kenya and Tanzania. Mr Reuben Thuku continues his lecturing for the Section. The Theosophical Order of Service is reported to have done exceptionally well during the last year, providing many necessary things for needy children and also artificial limbs and other items for those in distress.

The TS in Southern Africa is active in promoting awareness of its existence, which has evoked interest among African and Indian communities in several towns. Contact is being kept with the Lodge in Harare, capital of Zimbabwe, formerly called Salisbury. The General Secretary, Mr Tom Davis, travelled widely. He reports that they participated in an exhibition of books published in India, held at the Indian Consulate at Johannesburg where forty books from TPH Adyar were displayed, bringing a good response. Mr Reuben Thuku and Mr Kiran Shah visited some of the Lodges in South Africa and also spoke to the Indian community. Mr Davis also mentions that the previous steady decline in membership seems to have halted because of the effort made, and there is hopefully a new trend in terms of both quantity and quality.

An important event in Europe was the European Congress in Sweden in July, which attracted members not only from many parts of Europe, but also from other continents. Concurrently, the Swedish Section celebrated its centenary. Among those who spoke on the theme 'Towards Living Oneness', were myself, Miss Joy Mills and Miss Ianthe Hoskins. A contingent from Eastern Europe was also present, thanks to the aid offered

by the Federation. A new Lodge was chartered in Sweden after many years. In Norway also there is renewed enthusiasm. I visited Oslo for the first time, conducted a seminar on spirituality in everyday life, and delivered a public lecture. In connection with my visit there was enough newspaper publicity to attract several enquiries. Meetings are being held in a rented room, and hence their extensive library is in boxes. The General Secretary reports that the TS in Norway has been too isolated until now, but they are trying to make wider contacts while maintaining the independence of the TS. He also says that the decline in members has stopped. In Denmark also lectures are being held in rented premises in the centre of Copenhagen. Study groups function only in Copenhagen and in Aarhus and much must be done to vitalize and develop the TS in Denmark.

The Finnish annual convention moved out of Helsinki and was held in the North, which I was told was much appreciated. The summer school and other programmes go on year after year in Kreivila, the beautifully situated summer house of the Section. In June Miss Joy Mills gave talks and conducted workshops on *The Secret Doctrine* with 120 people participating. I also visited Finland and then proceeded from there along with the General Secretary, Mrs Kirsti Elo, and other members to Tallinn in Estonia, and gave two public talks, followed by long question-and-answer sessions. A magazine in Estonian has been started. The Finnish members,

particularly Mr and Mrs Hannu Vlenonen, are rendering every possible aid to make Theosophy known in Estonia.

Miss Kim-Diêu was elected during the year as Chairman of the European Federation. Along with Mr Curt Berg, retiring Chairman, she has been fostering theosophical activities in Russia and other Eastern European countries. Seminars were held in Russia and more literature made available in Russian. Seventy-five applications for membership have been received from Sophia and other towns in Bulgaria through Mr Stephan Hinkov, an old-time member of the TS, auguring well for a revival of the TS in that country.

Contacts continue with interested people in Rumania. In Hungary regular work is going on and there are forty members. Public lectures as well as study and discussion meetings are taking place. Several books have been published in Hungarian including Annie Besant's *Reincarnation* and C.W. Leadbeater's *Chakras*.

In Austria a summer school is held every year for a week and activities are carried on in three towns. The work shows little prospect of development. In Switzerland it is reported that there was much activity; forty-five public lectures were delivered at Geneva, besides discussions and other programmes. Prof. C.T. Phan, General Secretary of the TS in France, conducted a seminar in Geneva on 'The Constitution of Man', and they hope to have another one later. Five Lodges are active.

In France, the membership which

was more than 2,000 at one time, has been continually dwindling for many years and now stands at 588, which includes all the French-speaking members in West Africa. The General Secretary visited various places and conducted seminars in addition to the lectures he gave. A new Lodge was chartered at Marseille, a city I visited last summer along with the General Secretary. We also travelled to Brittany. My stay in France ended with a seminar in Paris. The French-speaking summer school was held in France with 160 members coming from Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg, Switzerland and of course France. It is hoped that the divisions in the Section, which have caused a serious setback, will end and there will be more constructive attitudes in the future.

The work in the Netherlands goes on smoothly. Publishing work has become important. Miss Joy Mills was a guest speaker during the year. The General Secretary, Mrs Ali Ritsema reports that the activities attract an increasing number of participants, more people seem to be interested in Theosophy, but they do not want to join any organization. In Belgium, the Lodges are working regularly. Video presentations are drawing more members than study classes. The Italian membership has risen and stands at 1,081. Once again, a seminar was sponsored by the European Federation and was held in Florence with about sixty participants from all over Italy. The annual convention saw the election of a new General Secretary after many years

during which Dr E. Bratina had headed the work with great dedication. Several Italian members came to the Congress in Sweden and it is proposed to encourage further international links. The magazine of the Section has been given a new look.

We are informed that the Lodges in Spain are regular in their activities. Their magazine *Sophia* is published every month, usually with an excellent selection of translated and original articles. Mr Juan Viñas from Argentina lectured in several towns. New premises were acquired in Madrid, Barcelona and Terrassa. The *Dhammapada*, Annie Besant's *Popular Lectures* and Jinarajadasa's *In His Name* were published. An Institute for Theosophical Study was established to offer courses on HPB's teachings. Many non-members are reported to have attended the first course in Madrid. In Portugal the new emphasis is on the scientific aspect of Theosophy. There is a small increase in membership.

After a considerable interlude of non-communication, we have received a report from Greece which mentions activities in Athens and other towns. A study group has been formed in Patra. The Regional Association in Slovenia reports the formation of a new study centre at Maribor, which will add to the three existing locations where Theosophy is already represented. Miss Mary Anderson has been regularly visiting the country and was the guest speaker at their summer school. Leadbeater's *Chakras* was brought out in translation, as well as the usual issues of their magazine.

The German Section continues its attempts to revive interest in the eastern areas of the country where Theosophy was previously suppressed by the communists. Well attended study weekends took place in the North and South. The summer school had as chief guest Miss Joy Mills and Dr Yves Marcel. The Publishing House continues its production in spite of being under financial strain.

The report of Miss Lilian Storey, General Secretary of the English Section, mentions that most of the 42 Lodges and 8 Centres in the Section hold regular meetings for members and the public. Their summer school was held at Nottingham with myself and Miss Joy Mills as guest speakers. At the headquarters in London there is a fine library, and a variety of programmes took place, which included a lecture by Dr Rupert Sheldrake on 'Experiments that could Change the World'. The Section collaborated on radio and television programmes about the famous modern artists Mondrian and Kandinsky who were both members of the Society.

The work in Scotland is proceeding well in spite of difficulties. Two new Lodges were chartered and the membership is now more widely spread instead of being concentrated in Glasgow and Edinburgh as it used to be. In Wales there is a Regional Association consisting of two Lodges whose membership increased slightly. They had weekend events with yoga teachers who were encouraged to study the fundamental teachings of Theosophy. Work in Ireland, both in Belfast and Dublin, goes on as best as

possible under trying circumstances.

Covenant Lodge in Tel Aviv, Israel, which is directly attached to Adyar, has links with the European Federation. Introductory and advanced courses are held in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, with programmes for members and the public. The Lodge also publishes a magazine.

Several long-standing members departed from this world during the year and are presumably resting before they return for another stint of labour for the world. Among them was Dr Corona Trew, a scientist who taught at the University of London and belonged to the theosophical research group in England. She could reminisce about early days, including how she was a young volunteer in Queen's Hall at the time of Annie Besant's famous lectures. She was an intellectual and a warm friend at the same time. Another veteran was Mr Walter Ballesteros of Colombia, who tirelessly translated theosophical literature into Spanish, guided many members in Central America, and was a member of the General Council of the Society. Mr Rohit Mehta was Recording Secretary at Adyar when Mr Arundale was President, and for a number of years General Secretary of the Indian Section. His books and lectures were much in demand. Mrs Jane Clumeck was also Recording Secretary of the Society at Adyar and later worked at the Manor Centre in Sydney, Australia. Mrs Kathryn Perkins was well known not only as the wife of former Vice-President James Perkins, but for her own devoted work and amiable disposition. Many others have

done praiseworthy service in their own areas and their work is of no less value, but we shall not enumerate their names.

At the beginning of this year I was in Sydney for the Centenary Convention of the Australian Section, and then visited all the major cities in that country, passing through Singapore on the way back. In July and August I was again abroad speaking in England, France, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, and Holland. In Holland, there was a beautiful function arranged to lay the foundation stone for a new guest house at the Naarden Centre. The trip ended with a week's visit to Brazil to conduct a retreat and dedicate a new building at the fine campus of the Theosophical Institute. It was an opportunity to meet members from such widely distant areas as Chile and Argentina in the south, and the US and Mexico in the north. In between these two trips abroad, I was at conferences of several Indian Federations — Karnataka, Madras, Maharashtra, and Uttar Pradesh — and also led a study course at Varanasi. The year was a very busy one: the correspondence which arrives at the President's office is considerable and besides that, there are articles to write, people to meet, and administrative and other matters to attend to.

The Vice-President, Mr Surendra Narayan, was the Chief Guest at the Delhi and Bihar Federation Conferences, and gave lectures at Guntur, but could not travel more owing to personal reasons. As already

mentioned, Miss Joy Mills travelled extensively in Australia and lectured in several countries of Europe, including Iceland. The International Secretary, Mr Pedro Oliveira, gave courses in Krotona and Olcott in the US and visited other places in that country and also Japan and Singapore, and later Brazil.

Work goes on harmoniously at Adyar. The Indo-Pacific Conference was held here in December last, as you know, bringing a small influx of participants at the last convention from countries which are rarely represented. But at all times the Adyar headquarters is pervaded by an international atmosphere of friendship for all.

The Theosophical Publishing House had a good year and the following new books were published: *The Flower of Yoga* by Miss Ianthe Hoskins, *The Search for Values* by Mr Soli Sorabjee, *Teachings on Discipleship* by Mr S.S. Varma, *Annie Besant on Right Citizenship*, a compilation, and *On Knowing Oneself* by Mrs Danielle Audoin. We expect improvement in the quality of publications since good paper is available as a result of the Indian Government's liberalization policy. Unfortunately, the Deputy Manager Mr C.S. Siddhartha passed away early in October and left a gap in the team of workers at Adyar.

The Adyar Library also published new works, including a life of Sankaracharya in English, based on collation of all available manuscripts. Dr S. Sankaranarayanan, the author, presented the work to the Library after its publication. Another volume given

as a gift is by Prof. Thangaswamy Sarma. It is in Samskrit and deals with direct perception as a means to knowledge as viewed in the different philosophical schools of India. A revised edition of the *Chandogya Upanishad* was brought out with the Advaitic commentary of Upanishad Brahma-yogin, for which newly available manuscripts were used. The second part of the Descriptive Catalogue of Tamil Manuscripts in the Library completed the publication of last year.

The first session of the School of the Wisdom was conducted in January and February by Professor Ravi Ravindra of Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada, on the theme 'The Science of Inner Transformation'. His course was much appreciated, especially the discussion periods. The second session from October to December was on 'Understanding Life'. It was a tribute to J. Krishnamurti, with several people who knew him personally or are familiar with his approach giving short courses on varied themes. The speakers included Dr Satish Inamdar, Dr Krishna Nath, Miss Ahalya Chari, Mr Pedro Oliveira, Miss Mary Anderson, Dr Hugh Gray, Prof. P. Krishna, and myself. The attendance was very good and the students were from many parts of the world.

The Theosophical Order of Service, represented by its groups in various countries, has a wide range of programmes. One activity which is popular is the work done through the healing ritual. After collating existing variations, the International Secretary

of the Order, Mrs Diana Chapotin, plans to republish and distribute the new version of the ritual shortly. The international magazine, *The Service Link*, is coordinating activities, and provides new ideas and news items of interest. It has been appreciated by those who have received copies, but calls for wider circulation.

An activity which was taken up by TOS members in India and abroad was to collect signatures to support a letter of protest sent to the Prime Minister of India against setting up slaughter houses on a large scale, increasing livestock production, and exporting meat to other countries. Considering the extensive and intensive cruelty practised on animals in factory farms, circuses, laboratories, and elsewhere much more work needs to be done in this field. I am glad to say that substantial donations have been made to the Animal Welfare Endowment Fund at Adyar and we expect the trend to continue. We plan to do vigorous propaganda with leaflets, talks to schools, and other means, against organized cruelty and callousness. All TS members and branches of the TOS can help the campaign in their own area.

Theosophy is religion *per se*, the essence of all the great religions. To come to it, superstitions must be discarded, and mere forms and conventions must not be made important. True religion unites and promotes understanding, not suspicion and dislike. In the early part of this century, a number of Indian Theosophists undertook the task of inspiring the Hindu community

to go deeper into their own religion and discover the Theosophy at its heart. Seventy-five years ago, the Bharata Samaja Association was formed to shed theosophical light on Hindu practices and divest the religion of sectarian attitudes and elaborate ceremonial. A group of learned members of the TS simplified the forms of daily worship (*pūja*) and rituals of marriage and other sacraments, incorporating only what was meaningful and essential. The customary image of a deity was replaced by a light in the *sanctum sanctorum*. The Bharata Samaja Association is celebrating its Platinum Jubilee, with a new edition of the ritual of daily *pūja* which contains the ancient mantras, translation and explanations. It is also planning to train people to do the work effectively. The reformist spirit must be the aim of all Indian Lodges, especially in view of the trend to use religion for political ends as part of the power game, and the Bharata Samaja should be an instrument of reform.

The work of the Olcott Education Society proceeds smoothly. The tone and quality of work at the Olcott Memorial School have improved, for which we are particularly indebted to Miss Ahalya Chari, Mr G. Gautama, the present Secretary, and Mr Arjun Gopalaratnam, who was Secretary until recently. We also owe thanks to the staff members of the Krishnamurti Foundation School at Madras who are giving time and energy to build a resource centre and help the school generally. The British Council has also been conducting an orientation

programme for teaching English at the primary level. The Social Welfare Centre is doing well. Mrs Radha Muthiah was appointed as the Superintendent during the year, as Mrs Swarnagowri Govindaraj wished to be relieved.

There have been other staff changes at Adyar. Mr N.C. Ramanujachary was appointed as Manager of the Vasanta Press in the place of Mr B.K. Rao, and Mr Kousik Krishnan took the place of Mr G. Raghavan as Maintenance Superintendent. Mr R.M. Tolani succeeded Mr D.K. Govindaraj as General Manager, as the latter was doing double duty as Treasurer and General Manager. Mr Conrad Jamieson was appointed as Officer-in-Charge of the Archives instead of Mr S.S. Varma. Since Lt. Col. Nandan Nilakanta resigned as Manager of the TPH in the later part of the year, Mr Govindaraj has been acting as Manager.

Work in Adyar is developing and new buildings have come up. Many of the old ones need renovation or repair. Hence the work of the Maintenance Department is voluminous. One of the major repair works during the year was to the old building in which the boys of the HPB Hostel were housed, and which will be used for the girls we will be admitting soon. Our beautiful bullocks also have a new roof over their heads. The Master Plan envisages some more constructions in Besant Gardens.

As I mentioned last year, we are taking care that the peace and natural beauty of the Adyar Estate is at all times preserved, and that the

atmosphere continues to be uplifting even though there are developments and new constructions. New trees are being planted to fill gaps and replace old trees which die. The garden produce was quite copious, so much so that we were unprepared and could not sell it all quickly enough. To avoid waste much fruit was given free to children and employees. We will have to find effective means of sale for the future.

The greatest of privileges and honours in the human incarnation is the opportunity, along with the necessary skill and wisdom, to bring about the good—the good that liberates the mind from selfishness and opens it to the universal Essence, the divine Presence which blesses all.

As theosophical students we help ourselves most by letting go of lesser aims and filling our hearts with the larger aspiration for the Good which is not personal. Swami T. Subba Rao indicated that self-forgetful devotion to the religious good of humanity is the talisman that protects pilgrims on the spiritual path from the danger of straying. May we be all inspired to travel on this royal road of self-forgetting devotion to the universal good. Then our lives will help to suffuse the human consciousness with a true religious spirit and thus uplift the world, until one day there will be no need for the Theosophical Society, because humanity will be composed entirely of Theosophists.

Radha Burnier

THE TREASURER'S REPORT

AND

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 MARCH 1995

TREASURER'S REPORT 1994-95

I have pleasure in presenting the audited accounts for the year ended 31 March 1995.

The surplus for the year under review is Rs. 75,718, an increase of Rs.26,966 over the previous year.

The amount spent on propagation of Theosophy for the year is Rs. 643,551. The net cost of the Adyar Library is Rs. 184,739. The decrease in the overall cost is largely because of the surplus of Rs. 60,966 from the publication account, which has more than offset the increase in the expenses.

In respect of *The Theosophist* and *Adyar Newsletter*, the net deficit has gone up from Rs. 31,727 to Rs. 60,819 and this trend will continue as there is a steep increase in the printing cost as well as postage with no corresponding increase in the income. These publications are subsidized.

The Vasanta Press has shown a surplus of Rs. 4,911 in the production account against previous year's gross deficit of Rs. 122,328. However, the overall deficit for the year is Rs. 192,822 which is significantly lower by Rs. 121,999 compared to the previous year.

The Theosophical Publishing House generated a surplus of Rs. 1,459,654 which is more than that of the previous year by Rs. 505,734. This is largely due to increase in sales from Rs. 1,923,829 to Rs. 2,726,564.

The amount spent on charitable activities during the year was Rs. 1,192,086 as against Rs. 1,143,265 for the previous year. The dominant activities were education and social welfare. In the coming years, animal welfare work will assume a more significant part in the charitable work. Donations for this purpose are being received and are expected to continue. As reflected in the figures and considering the increased emphasis given to charitable work including animal welfare activities, support from members is welcome.

The net deficit of the departments has gone up from Rs. 2,661,727 to Rs. 3,201,725, mainly due to increase in maintenance works to keep buildings and amenities in a reasonably satisfactory state. Costs have also gone up. During the year, Upasika Cottage was renovated thoroughly and overhead wires were replaced by underground cables in Besant Gardens. In addition, the water supply lines were renewed substantially in the main estate. These expenses are non-recurring in nature and have resulted in an expenditure of over Rs. 1.4 million.

In the working of Bhojanasala, there are no significant changes. In fact, the net deficit went up by only Rs. 1,589 compared to the previous year. In respect of the Garden Department, the net deficit has gone up from Rs. 276,934 to Rs. 351,471 due to a fall in the gross returns from cultivation and miscellaneous income.

BALANCE SHEET AS

MADRAS
8-9-1995

D. K. GOVINDARAJ
Hony. Treasurer

AT 31ST MARCH 1995

This is the Balance Sheet referred to in our Report of even date.

FRASER & ROSS
Chartered Accountants

Year ended 31-3-1994	EXPENDITURE	Year ended 31-3-1995	
Rs.		Rs.	Rs
	Departments: (Net Expenditure)		
44,808	Bhojanasala	46,397	
276,934	Garden	351,471	
3,709	Leadbeater Chambers	(81,669)	
2,336,276	Maintenance	2,885,526	3,201,725
	Charitable Work:		
15,926	Animal Welfare	23,289	
1,026,291	Education	991,118	
2,150	Distress Relief	12,866	
66,676	Free Dispensary and Medical	71,442	
13,790	School Fees and Books	15,620	
54,285	Social Welfare Work	60,072	
24,310	T O S International	128,249	
—	Scout Camping Centre	19,649	
9,325	Others	12,720	
		1,335,025	
1,212,753		142,939	
69,488	Less: Transfer from Other Funds		1,192,086
1,143,265	Propagation of Theosophy: (Net Expenditure):		
202,048	Adyar Library	184,739	
31,727	The Theosophist and Adyar Newsletter	60,809	
314,821	The Vasanta Press	192,822	
39,981	School of the Wisdom	66,223	
—	T. S. Workers' Training Camp	26,354	
11,550	Information and Public Relations	13,668	
135,408	Archives and Museum	87,047	
11,823	Theosophy Science Centre	11,889	
33,938	Convention	—	
781,296			643,551
	International Offices:		
72,826	President and Vice-President	31,636	
146,972	Treasurer	165,320	
146,282	Secretary	102,377	
366,080			299,333
	Establishment:		
87,850	Headquarters	93,775	
40,480	General Manager's Office	42,279	
96,251	Movable Properties Department	80,271	
74,123	Sanitary Department	88,993	
369,044	Security Department	384,673	
667,748			689,991
5,620,116			6,026,686

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 1995

[illegible]

THE THEOSOPHICAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

Year ended 31-3-1994	EXPENDITURE— <i>Contd.</i>		Year ended 31-3-1995	
Rs.			Rs.	Rs.
5,620,116		b/f		6,026,686
	Other Expenses:			
3,019	Insurance Premium	...	3,208	
20,442	Legal and Court Expenses	...	3,489	
32,509	Audit Fees	...	32,507	
27,966	Rates and Taxes	...	29,726	
781	Bank Charges	...	1,203	
681,481	Depreciation	...	1,658,455	
34,105	Motor Car Expenses	...	35,614	
52,144	Miscellaneous	...	33,256	
852,447				1,797,458
48,752	Surplus transferred to General Fund	...		75,718
6,521,315				7,899,862

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 1995

This is the Income and Expenditure Account referred to in our report of even date.

D. K. GOVINDARAJ
Hony. Treasurer

THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

BUDGET FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31-3-1997

EXPENDITURE		INCOME	
	Rs.		Rs.
Departments (Net Expenditure)		Propagation of Theosophy	
Bhojanasala	... 66,000	Theosophical Publishing House	... 644,000
Garden	... 268,000	General Donations	... 300,000
Leadbeater Chambers	... (46,000)	Interest	... 5,500,000
Maintenance	... 2,557,000	Membership Fees and Dues	... 1,200,000
		Licence Fees	... 84,000
		Miscellaneous Receipts	... 250,000
Charitable Work			
Animal Welfare	... 200,000		
Education	... 1,100,000		
Distress Relief	... 25,000		
Free Dispensary & Medical Aid	... 100,000		
TOS International	... 35,000		
School Fees and Books	... 25,000		
Social Welfare Work	... 90,000		
Others	... 15,000		
Scout Camping Centre	... 20,000		
Transfer from Other Funds	... (35,000)		
Propagation of Theosophy			
Adyar Library and Research Centre	... 338,000		
The Theosophist and Adyar Newsletter	... 76,000		
Vasanta Press	... 162,000		
School of the Wisdom	... 60,000		
Workers' Training Camp	... 35,000		
Information and Public Relations	... 25,000		
Archives and Museum	... 120,000		
Theosophy Science Centre	... 25,000		
International Offices			
President and Vice-President	... 40,000		
Treasurer	... 190,000		
Secretary	... 120,000		
Establishment			
Headquarters	... 110,000		
General Manager's Office	... 50,000		
Movable Properties Department	... 150,000		
Sanitation Department	... 120,000		
Security Department	... 500,000		
Other Expenses			
Insurance Premium	... 5,000		
Legal Expenses	... 15,000		
Audit Fees	... 40,000		
Rates and Taxes	... 200,000		
Motor Car Maintenance	... 40,000		
Miscellaneous	... 40,000		
Depreciation	... 1,000,000		
Bank Charges	... 2,000		
Surplus	... 95,000		
	7,978,000		7,978,000

FEES AND DUES RECEIVED
(From 1 April 1994 to 31 March 1995)

Name of the Section		1993-94	1994-95
		Rs.	Rs.
The Theosophical Society in Africa, East and Central	...	—	—
"	Africa, South	956	1,868
"	Africa, West	—	—
"	America, Central	2,911	3,120
"	Argentina	62,360	84,240
"	Australia	78,147	79,632
"	Austria	—	10,786
"	Belgium	23,867	28,122
"	Bolivia	6,479	5,273
"	Brazil	67,980	80,947
"	Canada	2,741	4,460
"	Chile	3,090	3,337
"	Colombia	3,663	2,968
"	Cuba	—	—
"	Denmark	2,140	2,167
"	England	45,303	—
"	Finland	28,736	32,668
"	France	—	—
"	Germany	72,887	—
"	Hungary	—	—
"	Iceland	14,358	16,644
"	India	66,968	31,516
"	Ireland, North	—	—
"	Ireland	1,452	—
"	Italy	—	57,795
"	Mexico	52,992	—
"	Netherlands	138,054	71,016
"	New Zealand	59,013	—
"	Norway	4,334	—
"	Pakistan	1,200	—
"	Peru	4,053	7,323
"	Philippines	—	—
"	Portugal	2,782	4,765
"	Puerto Rico	10,744	—
"	Scotland	2,328	2,837
"	Slovenia	3,863	—
"	Spain	20,160	—
"	Sweden	16019	—
"	Switzerland	27,188	—
"	USA	289,670	306,450
"	Uruguay	23,982	19,352
"	Venezuela	1,871	2,185
"	Wales	2,360	1,655
Lodges attached to Adyar	...	32,557	47,147
Fellows at large	...	7,830	20,254
		1,110,006	1,003,559

OFFICERS AND HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS FOR 1995

Executive Committee:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Mrs Radha Burnier | President |
| 2. Mr Surendra Narayan | Vice-President |
| 3. Mr Pedro Oliveira | Secretary |
| 4. Mr D.K. Govindaraj | Treasurer |
| 5. Mrs Norma Y. Sauty | General Council Member |
| 6. Mr S.S. Varma | General Council Member |
| 7. Mr K. Viswanathan | |
| 8. Mr Conrad Jenson | |
| 9. Mr R.M. Tolani | |

General Manager: Mr R.M. Tolani **HEADQUARTERS**

Adv. Library: Director: Mr R.M. Tolani
ADYAR, MADRAS 600 020

Adv. Librarian: Mrs Radha Burnier **INDIA**

Gen. Secy: Mr Arjun Gopalakrishnan

Information: Mr C. Seshadri

Land/Estater Chambers: Mrs Uma Nidhanta

Mass. Science: Mr Kousik Krishnan

Medical and Sanitation: Dr Mrs Subhoka Gita

Movable Properties: Mr S.M. Anandiah Rao

Museum and Archives: Mr S.S. Varma

School of the Widows: Director: Dr Paul Ravindra (Jan-Feb. 1995)
Panel of Speakers (Oct.-Dec. 1995)

Security: Mr D.V. Subramanian

Photographical Publishing House: Acting Manager: Mr D.K. Govindaraj

The Theosophist: Assistant Editor: Mr G. Naganathan

Typing Press: Dr N.G. Rameshachary

OLCOTT EDUCATION SOCIETY

Chairman: President: TS

Secretary: Mr N. Janakiram

Treasurer: Mr D.K. Govindaraj

Olcott Memorial School, Neelgiri: Mrs Lakshmi Narasimhan

HPS Bachel: Mrs Seethalakshmi Namaswamy

Social Welfare Centre: Mrs Radha Mathan

OFFICERS AND HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS FOR 1995

Executive Committee:

1. Mrs Radha Burnier	<i>President</i>
2. Mr Surendra Narayan	<i>Vice-President</i>
3. Mr Pedro Oliveira	<i>Secretary</i>
4. Mr D.K. Govindaraj	<i>Treasurer</i>
5. Mrs Norma Y. Sastry	<i>General Council Member</i>
6. Mr S.S. Varma	<i>General Council Member</i>
7. Mr K. Visvanathan	
8. Mr Conrad Jamieson	
9. Mr R.M. Tolani	

General Manager: Mr R.M. Tolani

Adyar Library: *Director:* Dr K.K. Raja

Librarian: Mrs Parvati Gopalaratnam

Bhojanasala: Mrs Radha Harihara Raghavan

Garden: Mr Arjun Gopalaratnam

Information: Mr C. Seshadri

Leadbeater Chambers: Mrs Uma Nilakanta

Maintenance: Mr Kousik Krishnan

Medical and Sanitation: Dr Mrs Susheela Oza

Movable Properties: Mr S.M. Amarnath Rao

Museum and Archives: Mr S.S. Varma

School of the Wisdom: *Director:* Dr Ravi Ravindra (Jan.-Feb. 1995)

Panel of Speakers (Oct.-Dec. 1995)

Security: Mr D.V. Subramaniam

Theosophical Publishing House: *Acting Manager:* Mr D.K. Govindaraj

The Theosophist: *Assistant Editor:* Mr G. Naganathan

Vasanta Press: Dr N.C. Ramanujachary

OLCOTT EDUCATION SOCIETY

Chairman: President, TS

Secretary: Mr N. Janakiram

Treasurer: Mr D.K. Govindaraj

Olcott Memorial School: *Headmistress:* Mrs Lakshmi Narasimhan

HPB Hostel: Mrs Seethalakshmi Namasivayam

Social Welfare Centre: Mrs Radha Muthiah

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS 1995

National Societies and Sections	34
Regional Associations (formed under Rule 35(c))	4
Presidential Agencies	10
Total Lodges and Study Centres	1,111
Total membership 1994	29,472
Total membership 1995	29,356

Section/Area	No. of Lodges and Study Centres	No. of Members
1. Africa, East & Central	15	578
2. Africa, South	5	243
3. Africa, West	15	353
4. America, Central	6	112
5. Argentina	27	384
6. Asia, Southeast	6	172
7. Australia	13	1,488
8. Austria	3	127
9. Belgium	8	126
10. Bolivia	8	94
11. Brazil	49	876
12. Canada	6	95
13. Chile	4	64
14. Colombia	8	102
15. Cuba	14	715
16. Denmark	1	37
17. England	50	1,276
18. Finland	23	526
19. France	33	588
20. Germany	9	210
21. Greece	6	136
22. Hungary	—	40
23. Iceland	9	313
24. India	446	10,804
25. Indonesia	14	406

Section/Area	No. of Lodges and Study Centres	No. of Members
26. Ireland, North	3	32
27. Ireland, Rep. of	1	15
28. Italy	50	1,081
29. Mexico	20	253
30. Netherlands	14	542
31. New Zealand	14	1,363
32. Norway	5	51
33. Pakistan	—	—
34. Peru	2	42
35. Philippines	27	373
36. Portugal	12	234
37. Puerto Rico	—	—
38. Russia	—	7
39. Scotland	8	138
40. Slovenia	3	59
41. Spain	14	336
42. Sri Lanka	3	69
43. Sweden	7	216
44. Switzerland	5	77
45. USA	130	4,246
46. Uruguay	5	74
47. Venezuela	3	39
48. Wales	2	60
	1,106	29,172

Lodges attached to Adyar

1. Covenant Lodge (Israel)	1	42
2. Japan	3	81
3. Korea	1	20
4. Fellows-at-Large	—	41
	5	184

THE THEOSOPHICAL PUBLISHING HOUSE

THE Theosophical Publishing House had a good year. The following new books were published:

The Flower of Yoga — by Miss Ianthe Hoskins

Search for Values — Mr Soli Sorabjee

Teachings on Discipleship — Mr S.S. Varma

Annie Besant on Right Citizenship — A Compilation by Ms Idarmis Rodriguez

On Knowing Oneself — Mrs Danielle Audoin

The TPH also reprinted several of its publications during the year.

We expect further improvement in the quality of our publications as good quality paper is available locally as a result of the liberalization policy of the Indian Government. Other measures are also being initiated to improve the quality of books and reduce the cost, though the cost of major inputs such as paper, binding material, etc. has

nearly doubled in the last few years.

The reorganization of TPH has resulted in centralizing the work connected with pre-printing, including editorial work. Further, we are hopeful of computerizing some more areas such as billing and inventory in the near future.

MR D.K. GOVINDARAJ
Acting Manager

THE ADYAR LIBRARY AND RESEARCH CENTRE

THE Library activities have been going on as usual at a steady pace. The following publications were released during the year: *Brahmavidya*, vol. 58 (1994); *Tirukkural*; *Introudction to Pancharatra*; *Amarakosa*, vol. 2; *Descriptive Catalogue of Tamil MSS in the Adyar Library*, vol. 2; *Hathayoga-pradipika* (reprint); *Manamala*; and *Suktavali*. *Sri Sankara: His Life, Philosophy and Relevance to Man in Modern Times* by Dr S. Sankaranarayanan, and *Bharatiya Darsaneshu Pratyaksha Pramana Vimarsah* by Prof. R. Thangaswami, were donated to the

Library by the authors after they were printed and are now included in the Library's General Series.

The following works are in the press: A revised edition of *Chandogyia Upanishad*, (Dasopanishads vol. 2, part 1); *The Philosophy of Bhedabheda* (reprint); *Vishnumriti Vyakhya*, vols. 1 and 2 (reprints); *Sri Pancharatra Raksha* (reprint); *ALB*, vol. 59 (Prof C. Kunhan Raja's Birth Centenary volume); *Paushkaragama*; and *A Descriptive Catalogue of MSS on Astronomy in the Adyar Library* by K.V. Sarma.

Other works under preparation are:

Textual Criticism by Dr K. Kunjunni Raja; a revised edition of *Samgitaratnakara*, vol. 4; and *Astronomy and Mathematics in Kerala*.

During the year 1,143 books were accessed, 1,363 catalogued and 85 purchased. We thank TPH Wheaton for donating 4 books, TPH Adyar for 67 books, the President's Office for 262, and other donors for 675 books; 675 books were repaired and bound in the Binding Section.

The Library supplied photocopies of rare books and manuscripts to research scholars from India and abroad, totalling 44,152 frames: These included 1,865 of palm-leaf manuscripts, 261 of paper

manuscripts, 1,622 of transcripts, 1,307 of rare books, 33,487 of other books, and 47 frames for the TS and 5,563 for the Adyar Library.

The Library has now 223 readers and 403 borrowers; 6,069 books were borrowed, and 1,629 manuscripts and 28,488 books were consulted during the year. Twenty-seven research scholars utilized the library, coming from France, Austria, Rumania, Australia, the U.S. and various parts of India. Visitors to the Library from Madras and outside totalled 839 during the year.

MRS PARVATI GOPALARATNAM
Acting Librarian

THE SCHOOL OF THE WISDOM

AS usual two sessions of the School were held in 1995. The January-February 1995 session attracted approximately forty students from Belgium, Brazil, Finland, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain and England as well as many parts of India. Dr Ravi Ravindra, Professor of Religious Studies at Dalhousie University, Canada, was the Director and the theme for the two-month session was 'Science of Inner Transformation'.

The October-December 1995 session attracted nearly thirty students from Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, England, Germany, Holland, New Zealand, Northern Ireland and the USA as well as several parts of India. The theme of the session, 'Understanding Life — Exploring J. Krishnamurti's Approach'

was elaborated by a number of speakers: Dr Satish Inamdar, Director, Bangalore Education Centre, Krishnamurti Foundation India (KFI) ('Brain and Mind', 4-11 October); Dr Krishnanath, Retired Professor, Kashi Vidyapeeth and editor of *Parisamvad*, Hindi bulletin of KFI ('Dialogue', 12-20 October); Miss Ahalya Chari, educationist and trustee of KFI ('Individual, Society and Transformation', 23-31 October); Pedro Oliveira, International Secretary ('The Flowering of Virtue', 6-10 November); Dr Hugh Gray from England ('Some Aspects of Krishnaji's Teachings', 22-24 November); Mrs Radha Burnier, International President ('The Art of Seeing Oneself', Nov.27-Dec.7); and Prof. P. Krishna, Rector, Rajghat Education Centre, KFI ('The Religious

Mind', 8-15 December). The session also featured many video talks and dialogues of Krishnaji and others of theosophical interest. In the afternoons the students visited several

departments of the International Headquarters as well as the Olcott Memorial High School, the KFI School at Adyar and Vasanta Vihar, headquarters of KFI.

MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

AN exhibition commemorating the Birth Centenary of J. Krishnamurti was presented during the 1995 International Convention at Adyar displaying many rare photographs, letters, personal items and biographical material along with excerpts from his teachings and copies of many of his books from the Krishnamurti Foundation India and the TS Archives.

Several research scholars from universities in India, Australia and England as well as free lance authors were provided material from the Archives on a variety of subjects.

Mrs E.T. Kyllikki Vuorinen from Finland has been busy recataloguing the collection of photographs and

holdings of the Museum. The cataloguing of documents and correspondence by Mrs Izar Tauceda from Brazil continued throughout the year.

Miss K. Jaishree of the Adyar Library staff has on a part-time basis undertaken the preservation of legal documents and the training of two members in preservation techniques.

Mr S.S. Varma relinquished mid-year his post of Officer-in-Charge owing to health problems and Mr Conrad Jamieson from New Zealand was appointed temporarily in his place.

MR CONRAD JAMIESON
Officer-in-Charge

OLCOTT EDUCATION SOCIETY

THE work of the Olcott Education Society continued smoothly and in a satisfactory manner, with all the units carrying on their regular programmes.

Olcott Memorial High School

The celebration of the centenary of the school culminated on 28 December 1994, with the opening of a spacious Prayer cum Assembly Hall with a seating capacity for about one

thousand persons. The former Chief Justice of India, Mr Justice M.N. Venkatachalliah, was the guest of honour. He lit a lamp and spoke on the occasion. The students presented a mime and dance programme on the theme of 'My Life and Dreams', which was very much appreciated. There were 517 boys and 275 girls in the school during the year.

The nutritious breakfast scheme

was extended to sixth class children and will also cater to the needs of children in the higher classes in the coming years.

Teachers and students were actively involved in the work connected with the TS International Convention. A number of delegates visited the school and the craft centre.

Several workshops were organized to upgrade teaching skills. Donations were received for providing free notebooks and textbooks and also teaching materials and bowls for the breakfast.

Staff members of the Krishnamurti Foundation School, Madras, have aided in building a Resource Centre and have helped the school generally. Mr G. Gautama took over as Secretary of the school from Mr Arjun Gopalaratnam, the latter having been appointed as Convention Officer. The British Council has been conducting an orientation programme for teaching English at the primary school, as this requires special skill while dealing with children from underprivileged neighbourhoods.

HPB Hostel

A spacious new building was opened on 4 December 1994 at a function in which residents at Adyar participated. The boys of the hostel are now accommodated there. During the year the old hostel building was completely renovated with a new tiled roof, replacing the old one which was in a very leaky condition.

Social Welfare Centre

Renovation work was also done in

the Social Welfare Centre where one of the old buildings was leaking badly. Mrs Radha Muthiah was appointed as Superintendent in the place of Mrs Govindaraj, who wished to be relieved. The playground equipment was improved and the children, numbering about 150, enjoy beautiful surroundings since the garden has been carefully looked after. As usual, a stall with the products of the tailoring and weaving section was kept open during the International Convention of the TS. The normal programmes and supply of free meals and breakfast, etc. continue because of donations given by TS members.

Banyan Centre For Education

Meetings of educators from various schools in the city of Madras continued, starting with a seminar in September 1994 on 'Learning without Burden'. The series of meetings and seminars which followed is considered extremely significant because they helped to formulate educational policy out of the collaborative thinking of teachers. The Centre co-operated with Max Mueller Bhavan and other bodies in promoting children's literature and reading habits. A meeting with biology teachers resulted in a strong consensus against animal dissection as a necessary tool for teaching.

Higher Education for Girls

Financial assistance was given to twenty-four girl students of the Olcott School and nearby institutions for further training either in professional skills or academic achievement.

MR N. JANAKIRAM
Secretary

THE THEOSOPHICAL ORDER OF SERVICE

MANY Theosophists feel that it is not enough to present the teachings of Theosophy to the world in their purest form by means of lectures and literature. Their lives have been touched by Theosophy and they wish to demonstrate its practical value. They are concerned about ongoing social and political upheavals on the planet and they care about pain and hardship in the lives of individuals around them. The Theosophical Order of Service (TOS) provides a venue or focal point for Theosophists committed to Theosophy as a force for change in the world and endeavours to serve as a source of upliftment and support in their undertakings.

Activities vary widely throughout the world. *The Service Link*, whose circulation is quietly expanding this

year thanks to steady work by local members, has featured special interviews with the heads of the TOS in the Philippines and India, where work is relatively strong. The bulletin carries ideas for branch discussion, questions and answers on service issues, a letters page, action alert announcements and a good news column, as well as short articles and 'how-to' information.

The ritual of the League of Healing, still widely performed in the theosophical world in spite of the fact that it has long been out of print, is being re-published and complimentary copies of the new edition will be distributed to all TS General Secretaries in the course of 1996.

MRS DIANA DUNNINGHAM CHAPOTIN
International Secretary

**REPORTS FROM
SECTIONS, NATIONAL SOCIETIES,
REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS,
PRESIDENTIAL REPRESENTATIVES, ETC.**

(Where necessary, reports have been translated,
edited or condensed.)

REPORTS OF GENERAL SECRETARIES

AFRICA, EAST AND CENTRAL

THIS Section comprises Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia, with a total membership of 578. It is hoped that theosophical work will be revived in Uganda in due course, where it was once flourishing, as two veteran members from Nairobi have moved to Kampala. There are seven active lodges in Kenya (283 members); two in Tanzania (134 members) and six in Zambia (161 members). The thirty-eighth annual convention of the Section held at Mufulira, Zambia, in April 1995 re-elected Mr Bhupendra R. Vora as General Secretary. Guest speaker was Miss Ianthe Hoskins.

Lodges throughout the Section continued studies of theosophical books. Seminars, study classes and camps were organized at several places.

Miss Ianthe Hoskins spoke at several lodges in the Section during her visit and conducted a weekend study class on *Vivekachudamani*. Our national lecturer Mr Reuben Thuku spoke at many places in Kenya and Zambia, and the Kenya media

continued broadcasting his talks on the radio and television. He also was a speaker at the World Hindu Conference at Pretoria, South Africa, and later addressed other gatherings of Hindu organizations as well as the TS lodges in Pretoria, Johannesburg and Durban. His talks were very well received at all the venues.

The Section Constitution was revised to bring it in conformity with the International Society's Rules and it was approved by the General Meeting of the Section at Mufulira, Zambia, on 15 April 1995.

Many lodges are actively carrying on TOS work distributing food, medicine and clothing to children's homes, and providing educational help to needy children. They also help old people's homes, supply artificial limbs to amputees, and assist in the rehabilitation of street children in Nairobi. Nairobi lodge holds weekly yoga classes and healing sessions for the sick.

MR BHUPENDRA R. VORA
General Secretary

AFRICA, SOUTHERN

IT is now eighteen months since the welcome advent of a new social order in South Africa. We trust that we have embarked on a path of reconciliation which will ultimately lead to peace and prosperity for all. The TS in Southern Africa has been active in promoting a

greater awareness of its existence and objects amongst all sectors of the population. This has resulted in some interest from African and Indian communities in Durban, Pretoria and especially Johannesburg.

In December 1994 the General

Secretary visited U.K., Germany, Austria, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Singapore. In March 1995, we participated in a large exhibition of books published and printed in India at the Indian Consulate in Johannesburg with forty books sent by TPH Adyar. At Easter 1995 the General Secretary participated in the annual convention of the East and Central African Section of the TS in Mufulira, Zambia, and attended the World Hindu Conference in Durban in July 1995. Mr Reuben Thuku and Mr Kiran Shah from Nairobi, who also

attended the Conference, gave talks in Durban, Johannesburg and Pretoria Lodges.

TOS is active with general counselling, writing to prisoners and donations to various charitable organizations. Membership increased to 243 during the year from 236 last year reversing the decline of earlier years, and we pray that this trend will continue and lead not only to an increase in quantity but also quality.

MR T.G. DAVIS
General Secretary

AFRICA, WEST

THE harsh economic conditions and high inflation continue in the area comprising this section: Ghana, Nigeria, Liberia and Cameroon. We are therefore continuing the membership of some members who regularly attend our meetings but have not paid dues in 1994 and 1995. We now have 198 members in Ghana, 123 in Nigeria, 6 in Liberia and 26 in Cameroon.

Our annual convention was held at Accra 1-3 July 1995 on the theme 'Theosophy and You'. The guest speaker, Prof. M.P. Fitzwilliams, a medical practitioner, spoke on 'Anatomy and Physiology in the Light of the Ancient Wisdom'. A workers' course was held at Accra on 5-6 March 1995 for an in-depth study of theosophical teachings, with *Light on the Path*, *In the Outer Court* and *The Path of Discipleship* as reference books. The course was directed by Rt.

Rev. Isaac K. Zaney.

Most lodges held regular study meetings on weekly, fortnightly and monthly basis. The General Secretary and two other speakers visited several lodges. Work is progressing on the construction of the Section headquarters building. A disastrous flood severely damaged the residence of the General Secretary including the Central Library and office records of the West African Section. Several TS charters need replacement.

We thank all Sections who send complimentary journals and magazines to us and hope they will continue to do so regularly. Despite many problems and difficulties, we are hopeful of enhancing the TS work in West Africa.

MR PAUL B. KWAKYI
General Secretary

AMERICA, CENTRAL

THE work of the lodges in the Section proceeded normally during the year. Following the decision of the General Council at its meeting in December 1994, the formation of a Presidential Agency in Costa Rica is awaited. The

lodges in El Salvador, Nicaragua and Guatemala have requested the formation of a Regional Association.

MISS CARMEN AGUILAR ALVARES
General Secretary

ARGENTINA

OUR summer school was held 4-11 February 1995 at the theosophical colony in San Rafael on the theme 'Approaching Meditation' coordinated by Mr Juan Vinas and attended by sixty members, some from Chile, Bolivia and Uruguay. Joint meetings with the Uruguayan Section were held at Buenos Aires and Montevideo on 'Towards a Creative State of Mind' and 'The Meaning of Life'. Fifty members from both countries attended these meetings held at Buenos Aires 29 April-1 May and at Montevideo 25-28 May. A spiritual retreat was held in San Rafael 8-15 July on *The Mahatma Letters*, coordinated by Mr Juan Cassibba.

Our annual convention was held 18-21 August at San Lorenzo on the theme 'The Power of Brotherhood and the Strength of Peace'. We participated in the International Book Fair in Cordoba for the second year and held

two public lectures during the fair in addition to book sales and wide public distribution of leaflets on the TS and its programmes. We also gifted theosophical books to several libraries.

The General Secretary and several other lecturers toured the lodges and gave lectures and seminars.

Our journal *Cambios* was published regularly and distribution extended to the TS in Uruguay.

Enthusiastic groups of young members are active in several branches, including publication of a magazine by them called *Sin Fronteras* (No Boundaries) the first two issues of which were brought out during the year. The TOS is active in Buenos Aires. Another activity of the Section is 'Circles for Peace', with seven groups holding monthly meditation meetings for peace.

MISS SILVIA BLAJER
General Secretary

AUSTRALIA

THE highlight of the year was the Centenary Convention when members from throughout Australia were joined

by some of the leading workers of the TS from abroad, foremost among them Mrs Radha Burnier, International

President. Other important guests were Dr John Algeo, National President of the American Section; Miss Ianthe Hoskins, Vicente Hao Chin Jr., from the Philippines; Hugh Dixon from New Zealand, and Mrs Diana Dunningham-Chapotin, from France. With the theme 'Theosophy: Signpost to the Future', the Convention period, 21-28 January, was a time not only to recall the greatness of past achievements but also to envision a future of continued and ever-deepening commitment to the work of disseminating the theosophical concepts and ideals.

Apart from attending the meetings of the Indo-Pacific Federation, the General Council of the TS and the International Convention at Adyar during December, I travelled around the Section from the end of February to the end of May for my third and final visit as National President of the Section. In mid-June I left for travels to several countries in Europe to fulfill earlier commitments — speaking at summer schools in Iceland, Finland, Holland, Germany and England, as well as the European Congress in Sweden.

Mr Pedro Oliveira, International Secretary, toured the Section from 1 September to mid-October 1995 and endeared himself to the members by his warm and unassuming manner and his delightful and engaging presentations. Mrs Radha Burnier toured the capital city lodges and gave a week's programme at the Manor Centre. Her talks were full of wisdom and compassionate understanding. Members throughout the Section

commented on the inspiration gained from her visit. Also several lecturers of the Section visited almost all the lodges, conducting workshops and seminars at many of them.

Another highlight of the year was the dedication of the 'Kuranda' Theosophical Education and Retreat Centre by the International President on 5 February before a gathering of some one hundred members. Our School of Theosophy was opened at the Centre in late April, with twenty-three student participants becoming the first residents of the just completed accommodation units. The morning sessions were devoted to studies in *The Secret Doctrine* and *The Mahatma Letters* conducted by me, and afternoon classes were given to training in theosophical work and leadership techniques.

A key element of the Section's educational work is the Correspondence Course. The Education Coordinator, Bev Champion, visited most of the lodges giving public lectures as well as conducting seminars and workshops. Among the latter was a particularly successful seminar on 'Discovering Your Creativity' which she conducted at the Kuranda Centre in August. Two new education programmes were sent out to all lodges and groups during the year: 'The Silent Teacher', a commentary on *The Voice of the Silence*, and a Theosophical Dialogue. The Letters to New Members, expanded from eighteen to twenty-two continues to receive favourable comment. The Section also prepared and sent out to every lodge a Public

Relations and Promotion Handbook. Our journal *Theosophy in Australia* published a Special Centenary Number.

Membership increased during the year by ninety-one to reach a total of 1,488. At year's end there were thirteen lodges and five groups. The Mt Helena and Manor Centres continue their theosophical activities.

It has been a privilege to serve the Australian Section for these three years, which have greatly enriched my life. The Section is strong, healthy, alive and throbbing with creative possibilities for future growth and development.

MISS JOY MILLS
National President

AUSTRIA

OUR summer school was held for a week in August at Rohrbach, near Linz, on the theme 'Experiencing Theosophy Consciously'. Relevant lectures were given, with an attendance of approximately twenty-five members. There were lectures and

study groups as usual in the three branches in Vienna, Graz and Linz. Miss Mary Anderson visited the Section and gave lectures on 'The Middle Way'.

MR FRANK DURKOWITSCH
General Secretary

BELGIUM

IN Brussels weekly public lectures attracted between 15 to 20 persons and a fortnightly introductory course about 20. The four lodges in Brussels studied *The Key to Theosophy*, *The Science of Yoga*, astrology and Krishnamurti's teachings. Thanks to video presentations instead of the study of a book, participation in the latter group increased from about four to fifteen. There were also public

lectures in three of the four lodges in Antwerp, Gent, Liege and Charleroi and two of them held introductory courses. Books studied in the four lodges included *A Study in Consciousness*, *Science of Yoga*, *The Secret Doctrine*, *The Mahatma Letters*, *The Ancient Wisdom* and the *Bhagavad Gita*. Membership now stands at 126.

DR H. VAN DER HECHT
General Secretary

BRAZIL

WE had the pleasure of receiving brief visits by Mrs Radha Burnier, International President, and Mr Pedro

Oliveira, International Secretary. Radhaji's visit attracted representatives from several countries: Argentina,

Colombia, Chile, Peru, Uruguay and USA.

Our publishing house brought out six new books in Portuguese and has more under preparation. We plan to publish four more books during 1995.

Our summer school is rotated every year and held in different parts of the country as it comprises a vast area. In 1995 the fifteenth summer school had as theme 'Meditation and the Work of the Theosophical Society'. From 25 February to 15 March 1995, our Section had as guest lecturers Mrs Dora Kunz and Dr Hein van Beusekom from the U.S. The Brasilia Institute of Theosophy had as guest speakers Dr John Algeo, Mrs Shirley Nicholson, Mr Ed Abdill and Dr Murillo Nunes de Azevedo for its Winter Programme in July. Rohit Mehta was scheduled to conduct this session, but he passed away in March 1995.

We keep regular contacts with lodges and study centres, and every letter is duly answered. There is also correspondence in Spanish and

English from other countries. The Book Department did good business during the year. The Department of Culture assists lodges with study programmes on Theosophy and also keeps in regular touch with unattached members. Internet is being used by the Department.

Publicity Department is busy translating pamphlets on theosophical subjects for distribution among lodges. Several lecturers were sent by the headquarters on tours of lodges and study centres. Our journal *Theosophia* is published regularly every quarter and its content has been greatly improved.

Regional gatherings of lodges and study centres are held regularly. The General Secretary visited Peru, Colombia, Mexico and USA and gave lectures.

The TOS has been reorganized and some activities have been taken up.

MR ALFREDO PUIG FIGUEROA
General Secretary

CHILE

THE Section has three lodges and one study group in Santiago City and one lodge in Valparaiso. At the Annual Convention held 13 August 1995, Mr Carlos Ramirez Lohaus was re-elected General Secretary. We broadcast a weekly fifteen minute radio programme which includes announcement of our public lectures. Introductory courses on Theosophy are held throughout the year for new members and the public. These eight-week courses attract an

average of ten persons. Public talks, forums, panels, videos or artistic events are held every Saturday. Every fourth Saturday of each month, the meeting is devoted to meditation. Efforts are being made to reactivate the TOS in the Section. Our constitution is being revised to conform to that of the international TS.

MR CARLOS RAMIREZ LOHAUS
General Secretary

COLOMBIA

No Report

CUBA

WE continued the basic courses of Theosophy imparted to all aspirants to membership begun last year after the visit of our International President. Almost all lodges now hold study meetings for members only aiming at a deeper understanding of Theosophy. Two Spanish members visited our Section during the year and brought a great deal of books and office items for the Section and lodges; also food and clothes for many members. They also gave money for us to buy a personal computer with printer, for use in the Treasury, Library and membership

records.

The annual convention was held 14-15 January in our Headquarters in Havana with the theme 'Theosophy, a Challenge of Today'. All the theosophical anniversaries were celebrated in the headquarters and in the lodges.

In spite of the difficult living conditions which continue, we expect that the Cuban Section will accomplish its duty in the cause of Theosophy.

DRA LELIA FERNANDEZ PAGOLA

General Secretary

ENGLAND

OUR very busy programme of work continued during the year. There are 42 lodges and 8 centres with 1,276 members. Most of the lodges hold regular meetings, both for members and the general public. The headquarters is open seven days a week and at least one meeting is held every day. The library is open five days a week.

The week-long summer school at Nottingham University was attended by 145 members, and we were pleased to have Mrs Radha Burnier and Miss Joy Mills as guests of honour. A Theosophical History Weekend Conference was held in headquarters in July with Prof. James Santucci,

editor of the *Theosophical History* magazine, as the main speaker. It is hoped to hold a similar conference every two years in future. Among other visiting speakers at headquarters were Dr Rupert Sheldrake and Andrew Cohen (from USA).

Our vegetarian Guest House at Tekels Park continues to hold weekend seminars for the benefit of members. The Science Weekend in June is always well supported and this year Serena Roney-Dougal was the main lecturer and spoke on 'The Pineal Gland: Third Eye and Psychic Chakra'.

The English Section cooperated for a commemorative radio programme on Mondrian, on his Centenary. Also on a

programme transmitted on Channel 4 Television on Mondrian and Kandinsky, both members of the TS. This has given the Section a higher media profile and we hope this will

encourage membership in the coming year.

MISS LILIAN STOREY
General Secretary

FINLAND

THE annual meeting was held in Oulu on 15 April 1995, followed by a public lecture. In Helsinki public lectures are held every Sunday from September to June. In other parts of Finland public lectures are organized once or twice a month. There was also an Elementary Study Course on Theosophy for the public in Helsinki. Two theosophical weekends were held in Kreivila. In Estonia the lectures are held at least once a month in the capital, Tallinn and other cities.

About 120 members and friends participated in the summer school held in Kreivila 23 June to 1st July 1995, when Miss Joy Mills gave a series of talks on *The Secret Doctrine*. There were also discussions and workshops giving the participants a fine occasion to concentrate together in the theosophical work. Lecture summaries were translated and distributed beforehand to the participants. Translated lectures are

also being published in *Teosofi*, the Section's journal.

The International President Mrs Radha Burnier visited Finland, gave a public lecture in Helsinki and held a press conference. A video of her lecture is now available. Seven members of the Finnish Section accompanied her to Tallinn, Estonia, where also she held a press conference and gave a public lecture.

There are now twenty-three lodges and two study groups as in the previous year. A great deal of repair work was done in the headquarters and some in Kreivila House. We have computerized membership records and library books. The Section published the Finnish translation of Geoffrey Hodson's *Fairies at Work and at Play*. The journal *Teosofi* was issued six times a year.

MRS KIRSTI ELO
General Secretary

FRANCE

AS of September 1995, there were 588 members in the French Section compared to the 607 of the previous year. But there have been numerous enquiries and new admissions (about

fifty in September-October). We have a new lodge in Marseille.

Public courses are given regularly every Saturday afternoon, and public lectures are also held regularly on the

first and third Sundays of every month. Video cassettes of Krishnamurti are shown every first Saturday at the headquarters, with many participants.

The French-speaking summer school organized by the Section in September 1994 was attended by 160 members from Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg, Switzerland and of course France. Several seminars took place during 1995. We have been so happy to have the visit of our President, Radha Burnier who gave three seminars and met workers of the Section.

The General Secretary gave

seminars in Italy, the United States, Canada and Switzerland. He also attended the International Convention at Adyar with a sizeable group of members from France and Switzerland. Other members from the Section visited and held seminars/talks in Russia, Italy, Krotona, New Zealand and Australia.

Our magazine *Le Lotus Bleu* is issued regularly. The TOS has been very active in helping people in India and in Africa.

All in all, the Section has been quite active.

PROF. C.T. PHAN
General Secretary

GERMANY

STUDY programmes of the lodges and study groups show a great variety, ranging from theosophical literature, working out theosophical approaches to everyday life problems, public lectures, practical hints to self-realization (meditation), and constant attempts to put theosophical principles into practice in daily life. Strenuous efforts to spread Theosophy in the eastern provinces continue, but progress is slow. Meetings together with other theosophical groups in Germany are planned, beginning with a gathering in Dresden. Miss Joy Mills and Dr Yves Marcel were the guests of honour at our summer school held at Arolsen, 3-9 August 1995.

The German Language School of Theosophy ran from 1-4 October 1994 at Michelstadt and was attended by twenty members. Miss Mary Anderson guided the study of *The Secret Doctrine*. The North and South German theosophical weekends were well attended.

The German publishing house (Adyar) brought out reprints of *The Key to Theosophy* by H.P. Blavatsky, *The Power of Thought* by Annie Besant and a new translation of Silvia Cranston's biography of HPB. Additional new editions are in the process of finalization.

GER BARON V.D. OSTEN SACKEN
General Secretary

GREECE

THE TS in Athens had a year full of activities, social and educational. The newly formed Blavatsky Lodge translated and printed a series of twelve theosophical lectures. Several gatherings were organized to strengthen the relationship between the old and new members. A seminar was held in Athens on 'The Fundamental Principles of Alchemy in

relation to the Chakras' on 14 May 1995. All theosophical anniversaries were duly commemorated.

Public lectures were also held in Ioannina and in Patra cities, where people showed interest. In Patra a study group of ten persons was formed.

MR P. ANAGNOSTOU
General Secretary

ICELAND

THE activity of the Section during the year ended 30 September 1995 was similar to the preceding year — weekly public lectures on Fridays, 'open house' with short lecture and discussion on Saturdays, meditation for beginners on Sunday afternoons and advanced meditation on Mondays; also a monthly course on the Yogasutras of Patanjali and another on psychology. There were three five-week courses for beginners on 'Mind Culture' and meditation for the public, each of them attracting about forty participants.

Miss Joy Mills was guest speaker at our summer school 15-21 June. Another guest speaker during the year was Helen Gething from England who conducted a five-day workshop on *Pratyabhijna Hrdayam* — the Secret of Self-Realization.

There are only three branches active

outside the headquarters in Reykjavik — in Akureyri, Kopavogur and Keflavik. The magazine *Gangleri* is issued twice a year and the members' Newsletter three to four times a year. It has been decided to start Letters to New Members adopting the twenty-two Australian letters. There will be more emphasis on internal programmes for members only in future. A point is made to emphasize the feeling of welcome and brotherly togetherness, rather than the indoctrinating of ideas and knowledge. There is a stable core of workers and members taking care of different aspects of the work and a steady stream of public and members to enjoy and partake in the work.

The General Secretary and the board were re-elected at the general meeting held on 13 May 1995.

MR EINAR ADALSTEINSSON
General Secretary

INDIA

THE year was on the whole a successful one for TS work in spite of some difficulties like shortage of workers. The one purpose which dominated the work was to establish unity among workers, provide efficient and prompt service to individual members, lodges and federations and prepare them for effective TS work. There was an increase in membership from 10,718 to 10,804 during the year — in 446 lodges and centres spread over 16 Federations in India.

J. Krishnamurti's birth centenary was observed in a befitting manner with many lectures and more than forty study camps held by different federations. A special Krishnamurti number of the *Indian Theosophist* was published in June 1995 of which 350 extra copies were sold — in addition to the usual circulation of 5,500 copies mailed free to members.

As usual, many conferences and study camps were organized throughout the country. Theosophical books were published in several Indian languages. A team of twelve national lecturers visited more than 150 lodges in various federations. Mrs Radha Burnier delivered lectures at Gorakhpur, Nagpur, Bangalore and Gwalior on themes like 'You are the

World' and 'The Future is Now'. Twenty public lectures were organized in Section Headquarters. The General Secretary visited many lodges and Federations throughout India. Lodges were given financial help and advice to solve some of their problems.

The annual study camp at Varansi 7-16 October 1994 was directed by Mrs Radha Burnier on HPB's *The Key to Theosophy* with seventy participants from all parts of India. The seventy-second Easter Conference at Adyar attracted more than 150 delegates from various cities. The theme 'Yoga is Skill in Action' was dealt with at length.

More than a hundred members have gone to peace during the year, among them stalwarts like Rohit Mehta, Shridevi Mehta, and R.C. Rath. Many of them were members of long standing serving the Indian Section in various capacities and to that extent the Section feels poorer.

We are in urgent need of honorary workers for helping in various departments at the Section headquarters in Varanasi.

MR M.P. SINGHAL
General Secretary

INDONESIA

THE Annual Congress was held 31 March-2 April in Prigen, a mountain resort in East Java, on the theme 'Wisdom towards Peace' and was

attended by seventy persons, representing ten lodges and members-at-large. The General Secretary was re-elected for another term.

We received a thesis by Iskandar P. Nugraha on 'The Theosophical Movement in Indonesia and its Role in the National Movement (for independence) 1912-1930'. This thesis was presented in 1989 to the University of Indonesia in Jakarta. He is now working on his Master's degree in Australia on the theme 'Theosophical Education Movement in Colonial Indonesia, 1912-1947'. In his thesis he showed the TS as an important element in awakening the national consciousness of many prominent leaders in the struggle for independence. We invited him to present the results of his findings at

our Convention in 1996 to which he has eagerly consented.

The translation of *The Devachanic Plane* by C.W. Leadbeater was issued in July 1995 as part of the effort to supply lodges with translations of seven manuals, making use of a A\$1,000 donation from the TS in Australia. The next to be published will be *The Seven Principles of Man*. The Section has so far published Indonesian translations of more than thirty theosophical books, many of them in stencil.

MR H.M. SOESISWO
General Secretary

ITALY

THE TS in Italy continued its activities regularly during the year. We now have 1,081 members in fifty lodges and six study centres. Our journal *Rivista Italiana di Teosofia* is regularly issued every month, and starting from the September issue it has a revised format. Circulation is about 1,075. The fifth seminar organized in Italy by the European Federation of the TS was held in March in Florence and was a great success, with sixty participants. The

theme was 'Education from the Theosophical Perspective'. The annual convention was on the theme 'Krishnamurti and Theosophy', when Mr Antonio Girardi was elected to succeed Mr Edoardo Bratina. A large number of our members attended the European Congress in Sweden in July. It is possible to affirm that the future prospects of the Italian Section are positive.

MR ANTONIO GIRARDI
General Secretary

MEXICO

THREE new lodges and four new study centres were started during the year, and sixty new members were admitted. A new Training Centre for Theosophical Workers was founded

and began work in the second semester of 1995, providing a special course for theosophical workers on public speaking. We also continued our regular programme of study and

seminars. The General Secretary visited all lodges and study centres of the country and encouraged interaction between all of them. For two years now we have a Council for Lodges and Study Centres in Mexico City.

In May 1995, the General Secretary of the Brazilian Section, Mr Alfredo Puig Figueroa, visited the Section, conducted a seminar and gave public

lectures in Mexico City and Cuautla, Morelos.

The Section established a National Publishing House named 'Foundation Blavatsky' to publish *Atma Vidya*, a magazine which will present the unpublished writings of HPB and her Masters in Spanish language.

MS LISSETTE ARROYO JIMENEZ
General Secretary

NETHERLANDS

WE have been working hard to get the organization as efficient as it is now. Also, to get the members more involved and to make them more responsible. This seems to be appreciated by most of the members.

Most lodges are meeting once a week or every two weeks. We started a national study group at Amsterdam with 15 persons, studying *The Secret Doctrine* and *The Mahatma Letters*. The third print of *The Science of Yoga* by Dr I.K. Taimni was ready last summer. Other books getting almost ready are: *Living in Wisdom* by Prof. P. Krishna, *Inner and Outer Transformation* by Joy Mills and *Yama and Niyama* by S.S Varma.

In November 1994 we had a weekend on 'Human Regeneration' and in March this year we had a day with the members to discuss and inquire how we can grow and deepen our approach to life. During the summer weekend the theme was 'The Personality in This World as Instrument of the Divine' with Joy Mills as main speaker. Our activities attract an increasing number of participants. More and more people seem to be interested in Theosophy, but do not want to be members of any group.

MS ALI RITSEMA
General Secretary

NEW ZEALAND

THE 1995 Convention was held at Auckland at which Mr Charles Werner was the overseas guest speaker. He gave two talks on various aspects of consciousness and his workshop on

'Dreams and Visions — Pathways to Understanding' was particularly appreciated. Mr Charles Marresh from Sydney was the guest speaker at the three-day Queen's Birthday Weekend

in June. He spoke on 'Some Requirements for the Yogic Life'. Several visiting and national lecturers travelled during the year to the Lodges.

The headquarters library has an active mailing service and both members and non-members are benefited. Our video library is also popular.

Membership at the end of the year totalled 1,363, a decrease of seventy-

six from the previous year.

I want to express my gratitude for the headquarters staff and lodge Presidents for their unstinted support to the work of the Society throughout the country. May we all continue to labour unselfishly not only for the good of the Theosophical Society, but for the world.

MR HUGH DIXON
General Secretary

NORWAY

THE major event of the year was the visit by the International President Mrs Radha Burnier in July during which she gave a very successful public lecture, held a one-day seminar on spirituality in everyday life, and spoke at a press conference. Norway's most important paper carried a long article with photograph which resulted in many enquiries from the public.

Recently, we decided to have our public meetings in a centrally-located place where we plan to sell our books as well. Although the decline has stopped, we expect any increase in membership to be very slow. Today we are fifty members.

MR TORSTEIN A. TOBIASSEN
General Secretary

PHILIPPINES

SIX new study groups were formed during the year, resulting in a total of 373 members in lodges and study groups. A conference on Theosophical Education was held in Bacolod City, 28-29 October 1995, with participants coming from various lodges. A weekly radio programme, 'Golden Lessons in Living' was launched on 1 July 1995 in Quezon City on self-transformation through meditation, love, intuition, etc. As a result of the radio programme, the national headquarters

has started distribution of weekly two-page outlines of subjects on self-transformation to lodges, study groups, members, as well as the general public.

Our publication *Peace Ideas* is now in Internet's Worldwide Web, accessed by more than twenty million people around the world. The International TOS magazine, *The Service Link*, edited by Mrs Diana Dunningham Chapotin based in France, is printed by us.

Two retreats were conducted during

the year, one in Davao and the other in Iloilo. The headquarters has added a new 486 computer donated by Ms Cely Raymundo.

The Section continues its active work for the Indo-Pacific Federation. During the triennial conference held in Adyar, Mr Vic Hao Chin, Jr. was re-elected President of the Federation.

The TOS in the Philippines has formally incorporated character building courses in all the training programmes it runs, such as computer training, seminars on cooperatives, etc. Feedbacks received on these sessions have been quite positive. Participants, especially parents, have

expressed appreciation for learning how to handle difficult problems in life.

The General Secretary was invited to serve in the task force formed by the Philippine Department of Education to review the Values Education Programme for elementary and secondary levels in the country. The task force has formulated alternative approaches to values education, and some of the initial recommendations are already being adopted by the department.

MR VICENTE HAO CHIN, JR.
General Secretary

PORTUGAL

AS in previous years we had public lectures and symposia every fortnight and branch meetings every week. We also celebrated all theosophical anniversaries. Our quarterly journal *Portugal Teosofico* is published regularly. In March at the annual

convention Dr Humberto Alvares da Costa was elected General Secretary. Only one member from our Section could attend the Iberian Theosophical Week held in Spain.

DR HUMBERTO ALVARES DA COSTA
General Secretary

PUERTO RICO

No Report

SPAIN

THE TS in Spain and its lodges have been working regularly during the year. The same applies to the publication of the magazine *Sophia* and to the TPH. We were visited by Mr Juan Viñas from Argentina who gave talks and conferences in several towns. Also Isaac Jauli who is at

present living in Spain, went on a tour of several towns and gave talks and seminars in various lodges. The magazine *Sophia*, a monthly, is being sent to some lodges and members in South American countries as well. We purchased three new premises: in Madrid, Barcelona and Terrassa. After

renovation they will be ready for use early next year.

The Publishing House brought out several new titles and a reprint of *The Voice of the Silence*. A revision of the translation into Spanish of *The Secret Doctrine* is being made and its future publication will have a complete index of subjects.

We have started an institute of Theosophy in Madrid dedicated to an in-depth study of theosophical literature. The first course attracted fifty students, most of them non-members. The course created a great deal of interest among the

students and most of them have enrolled for the second course as well. Next year we plan to start a similar course of studies in Barcelona.

Our summer school was held in the last week of August in Deva, a beautiful coastal town in the north of the country on the theme 'The Practice of Meditation and the Theosophical Life' and the attendance was about a hundred.

The undersigned was elected General Secretary and assumed office on 26 August 1995.

MISS MARIA CARMEN CESAR GALANTE
General Secretary

SRI LANKA

DESPITE the constraints under which the Section works, such as disturbances in the north and rising costs, work goes on, and two new lodges were formed—in Galle (Shanthi Marga) and Kandy (Swetha Padma). Headquarters in Colombo has regular meetings twice a month and monthly discussion meetings. All speeches are tape-recorded for use by interested members. At the annual

meeting Mr Melwin Herath was elected General Secretary. TOS is active in education and help to orphans. The TS in Sri Lanka hopes to expand its activities in the coming years and would like help from the International Headquarters in financing translation of theosophical books into local languages.

MR MELWIN HERATH
General Secretary

SWEDEN

SIX lodges have had activities the whole year, including many lectures on various theosophical themes, and also study groups on *Light on the Path*, *The Secret Doctrine*, Basic Ideas of Theosophy, etc. A new lodge, the seventh in Sweden, was founded during the year. One member attended

the School of the Wisdom at Adyar and two members participated in the courses at Naarden.

The European Congress held in Sweden last summer was combined with the Centenary of the Swedish Section. The Theme was 'Towards Living Oneness' and about 160

members from 22 countries attended. The guest of honour was Mrs Radha Burnier, and other speakers included Joy Mills, Tran-Thi-Kim-Dieu, Curt Berg and Ianthe Hoskins. It was an inspiring week in a friendly atmosphere. Our journal *Tidlos*

Wisdom (Timeless Wisdom) is issued quarterly, edited by Barbro Melander. Our bookshop is active, operated by voluntary workers.

MRS ING-BRITT WIKLUND
General Secretary

SWITZERLAND

OUR Section was very active during the year, with regular meetings of its five lodges. We held forty-five public lectures at our Headquarters in Geneva. In addition, we have an informal debate once a month on a theosophical subject while refreshments are being served, and at the same time we hold a second-hand book sale, the profit of which is donated to charity. This activity draws between forty and fifty persons each time. We give an introductory course on Theosophy twice a month. Prof. Phan Chon Ton, General Secretary of the TS in France, conducted a seminar

on the constitution of man which was very much appreciated by some twenty participants. We scheduled a second seminar by him on the study of *Mahabharata*, but unfortunately it had to be postponed to next year because of strikes in France. My second term as General Secretary ends on 31.12.1995 and Mr Edwin Nathan has been elected to succeed me. We have started organizing the 1996 Summer School for the Latin Countries to be held next July.

MME ELIANE GAILLARD
General Secretary

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

IN addition to its local groups (fifty Lodges, fifty certified Study Centres and sixteen provisional Study Centres) the Section has nine regional Federations and six camps or regional centres. Programmes in Lodges, Study Centres, camps and regional centres are the responsibility of local groups, but the Headquarters at Olcott provides assistance in the form of lectures, video tapes, study courses, and suggestions. Local programmes are reported regularly in *The American*

Theosophist.

Olcott estate in Wheaton, Illinois, is the administrative headquarters of the Section and the site of its Publishing House, magazine editorial offices, audio-visual productions, national library, the Olcott Institute, and other services for groups and fellows. An active programme of lectures, workshops, seminars, retreats, courses, and social activities is also set at Olcott. During most of the year, every day sees at least one programme

scheduled at Olcott, and sometimes as many as three or four. Many of the programmes put on at Olcott are subsequently made available to the whole Section, live or in audio or video recorded form. Recent visitors included Miss Mary Anderson, Mr Pedro Oliveira, and Mr David Colley from England. •

During the past year the Fieldwork Programme provided eleven national lecturers who toured forty-one locations, participating in a total of eighty events. The Olcott Institute is the educational arm of the Section to provide theosophical education covering a wide range. The Olcott Library functions both as a reading room as well as a lending library (in person and by mail) of books, audio and video tapes on Theosophy and related subjects, serving members throughout the nation. Library activity was automated with the generous support of the Kern Foundation.

The TPH, our largest department, published several new books in hard cover and many Quest books during the year. One of the new books has been selected by the Book of the Month Club and others have been commended in other ways. It has launched a new quarterly newsletter mailed to bookstores and distributors. This marketing tool is designed to bring the names of Quest Books and the TS into greater visibility in the book industry.

Our new distributor, National Book Network, achieved a thirty-seven percent increase in trade sales. Domestic sales are doing well and increasing satisfactorily.

The Quest, our public magazine, registered a circulation of 28,000 during the year, including 5,000 new subscribers. *The American Theosophist* was considerably enlarged in size and its content increased in depth. *The Messenger*, a study paper and newsletter primarily for members-at-large, is sent also to each local group in the Section and to individual group members who subscribe to it.

The Audio-Visual Department made fifteen new titles in twenty cassette tapes. Video film work was completed on a five-part series *Foundations of Ageless Wisdom* by Ed Abdill. The series will be made available to groups and individual Fellows and will be especially useful for lodge and study-centre group use. The Eternal Quest Television series consists of seventeen programmes provided free of charge to television stations.

We are planning to put the major theosophical journals from the earliest *Theosophist* on CD-ROM (data base) which will be of value not only to members in the Section but to many others outside the US as well.

Among the allied organizations, organizationally independent of the Section, but which exist to carry out theosophical purposes and are linked in various ways to the Society are: the Krotona Institute of Theosophy, the Krotona School of Theosophy, the Theosophical Book Association for the Blind, the Theosophical Book Gift Institute, and the Theosophical Order of Service.

DR JOHN ALGEO
National President

URUGUAY

DESPITE continuous effort during the past year to give more life to our Section, loss of members persists due to increasing economic crisis in Uruguay. Lack of finance and speakers to travel regularly were the causes of our failure to carry Theosophy outside the capital, Montevideo.

New members receive our Introductory Course on Theosophy and Meditation as well as practical lessons on deeper aspects of life and inner development. A new group is

steadily working to serve as a centre for growth in our Section and to reinforce links among the members. We gather in study, meditation and service and, of course, our meetings are open to all TS members.

Our weekly radio programme 'New Humanity' is continuing on the deeper aspects of Theosophy in daily life and human regeneration, attracting more people to our public meetings.

MS THELMA CESTAU
General Secretary

REPORTS OF REGIONAL SECRETARIES

CANADA

APART from an occasional international speaker, there have been no special events during the past year. Lodges are continuing to hold regular meetings and study classes. Our quarterly magazine *The Light Bearer* is drawing compliments for the interesting variety of its well-chosen articles. In July the Blavatsky Lodge in Vancouver began publication of a monthly newsletter.

After a lapse of seven years, the Theosophical Order of Service in Canada is being revived under the capable leadership of Mr Stanley Douglas. Because of lapsings, total membership has decreased from 103 to 95. During the coming year, efforts will be made to attract more new enquirers.

MR HUGH JACKSON
Regional Secretary

IRELAND, NORTHERN

THE work was quietly carried out throughout the past year. Our 46th Annual Convention was held in June 1995 with Dr Hugh Shearman as the main speaker. The programme of public activities included talks,

tape-recordings, questions and discussion. Members' meetings are held on Wednesday nights.

MR JOHN DOHERTY
Organizing Secretary

SLOVENIA

THERE are fifty-nine members in Slovenia. Lodges hold weekly study meetings on various theosophical books and also held a number of public lectures. Our summer school held 8-10 September 1995 near Koper was attended by about forty members. It was on the theme 'There is Nothing without You' and was directed by Miss Mary Anderson. We brought out two issues of our journal *The Theosophical Thought* and the third issue will be ready in November. Our annual

convention elected Dr Cveta Staric as Regional Secretary as well as other members of a new Executive Committee. We have adopted new rules for the TS in Slovenia in conformity with international rules and when the new Slovenian law regarding societies is passed it will be possible for us to get our rules confirmed by the authorities.

DR CVETA STARIC
Regional Secretary

WALES

IN both Welsh lodges there has been a full programme of events including regular public meetings. Cardiff Lodge holds weekly study sessions, together with meditation groups. These are also held at Colwyn Bay Lodge every month. A number of weekend events were also held. Visiting speakers included Ianthe Hoskins, Helen Gething and Denise Taggart. TOS

(members as well as non-members) raised money to build a children's hospice in Wales and for the Olcott School in Adyar. It is also pleasing to note in this small Regional Association that the number of new members during the year was almost double the number of those lapsed.

MR MALCOLM TANNER
Regional Secretary

REPORTS OF PRESIDENTIAL REPRESENTATIVES

ASIA, SOUTH-EAST

THERE has been an all-round improvement in the work in the entire region. The membership increased by twenty-eight. A new lodge named Kusum Lodge was formed in

Chittagong, Bangladesh, with twelve members. Sixteen new members joined Selangor Lodge, Malaysia. The Singapore Lodge has a variety of programmes with public lectures on

every Saturday evening and study class before the lecture. The lodge had the benefit of visits by several international lecturers. The President of the Indo-Pacific Federation, Mr Vicente Hao Chin, Jr. visited Selangor

Lodge in Malaysia. Regular study classes are held in this lodge as well as in the Seremban Lodge.

DR C.V. AGARWAL

Presidential Representative

BOLIVIA

WE held joint meetings in Cochabamba with the four branches there every month. We have had meetings with all branches (national level) organized by Branch Alaya de los Andes. Another national conference, held in La Paz, studied the *Bhagavad Gita* translated by Annie Besant. I visited all branches thrice during the year, and also attended the Summer School in San Rafael, Argentina,

directed by Mr Juan Viñas. Unfortunately two visits by speakers from other countries scheduled for the year had to be canceled (Mr Riccardo Lindemann due to other work in Brazil and Mr Juan Viñas due to ill-health), but such visits are scheduled for the coming year.

MRS TERESA W. DE NUNEZ

Presidential Representative

DENMARK

WE have thirty-seven members of which ten are lodge members. Public meetings are held twice a month in centrally-located rented premises of Copenhagen, attended by six to twenty-eight people. Leaflets on the lectures are distributed at the University of Copenhagen, bookshops and public libraries.

A study group on *The Key to Theosophy* was set up last year. Another study group on *The Secret*

Doctrine is expected to start this autumn. The White Lotus Lodge has regular meetings twice a month on *Foundations of Esoteric Philosophy* and *Truth, Beauty and Goodness*.

'Competition' from scores of small New Age groups — as mentioned last year — continues, as does the lack of enthusiasm from certain members.

MRS EDEL SCHARSTEIN

Presidential Representative

HUNGARY

WE now have forty members. Two study groups functioned during the

year with fortnightly meetings, discussing Annie Besant's *The Ancient*

Wisdom and other theosophical literature. A monthly public lecture attracts an average attendance of forty to sixty persons. Two interviews with the Presidential Representative were broadcast by Hungarian television — one on HPB and her work and the other on fundamentals of Theosophy, eliciting several telephone calls.

In May 1995 we published 3,000 copies of C.W. Leadbeater's *The Chakras* with help from the Non-English Publications Fund. Other

books brought out during the year were Annie Besant's *Reincarnation* (1,000 copies) and Kahlil Gibran's *The Prophet* (2,000 copies), both reprints. The Presidential Representative gave several lectures on theosophical topics before largely-attended public meetings held by other organizations. He also attended the European Congress in Boson, Sweden.

MR LASZLO REICHER
Presidential Representative

IRELAND, REPUBLIC OF

A video cassette player was purchased and a campaign is under way to revitalize the lodge in Dublin. The Dublin Lodge President visited the English Summer School and brought back books and tapes for use in study. Visitors included Dr Yves and Mrs

Sheila Marcel. Dr Marcel gave a most stimulating talk. Visits by some speakers from England are also being arranged.

MRS WIN WOODS
Presidential Representative

PAKISTAN

No Report

PERU

TWO courses on Theosophy were held for the public during the year in November 1994 and June 1995 with an average attendance of fifteen persons each time and both caused great interest. A course for new members is given every year with a duration of eight to nine months. Lodges also had study groups on different theosophical and allied topics. Lack of funds prevents us from

hiring a hall for public lectures, so they are held in our small premises. We held a lottery of some donated items and raised funds for library furniture. For lack of funds we could publish only one issue of our journal during the year. We are thinking of collecting advertisements for the next issue.

MR JULIO GERARDO POMAR
Presidential Representative

RUSSIA

No Report

SCOTLAND

THE membership now stands at 138. Lodges meet regularly and hold public lectures and study classes. Delegates from Glasgow attended the Swedish Section Centenary and European Congress, the English Summer School and the Convention at Adyar. A new astrology group has been launched in Glasgow. The study group in Edinburgh has taken up I.K. Taimni's book *Self-Culture* which was well received. Major repairs were carried

out at Glasgow.

In April 1995 notification was received from Adyar about the General Council's decision that the TS in Scotland should now be formed as a Regional Association. Due to Scottish law requirements a new constitution has had to be drawn up and we are taking steps to form the Regional Association with elected officers.

MRS MARGARET T. SENIOR
Presidential Representative

VENEZUELA

No Report

REPORTS OF FEDERATIONS**EUROPEAN FEDERATION**

THE European Congress held in Boson, Sweden, July 1995 was a truly international event with about 160 participants hailing from twenty-two countries, including members from Russia, the Ukraine, Slovenia and Hungary in Eastern Europe (who were guests of the Federation) and from the US, Australia, New Zealand, India and Japan. Six full days of lectures, symposia, short study courses,

discussions and many private conversations explored the implications of the theme 'Towards Living Oneness' in the beautiful setting of Boson Sports Centre, which provided ample facilities for our needs. The next European Congress will be held in Italy in 1998.

In the triennial elections held during the Congress, Miss Tran-Thi-Kim-Dieu (France) was elected

Chairman, Mrs Ingrid Eberhard-Evans (Wales) as Secretary, and Mr Curt Berg (Sweden) as Treasurer.

Miss Tran-Thi-Kim-Diêu and Mr Curt Berg, in cooperation with the Presidential Representative for Russia,

Mrs Nina Veligon, held a seminar in Moscow in September. Attendance was as usual by invitation.

MISS TRAN-THI-KIM-DIÊU
Chairman

INDO-PACIFIC FEDERATION

THE Federation Conference held at Adyar 22-23 December 1995 was attended by almost all member-countries, headed by the following: Miss Joy Mills (Australia), Mr M.P. Singhal (India), Mr Matius Ali (Indonesia), Mr Jeff Clark (Japan), Mr Lim Kil Young (Korea), Ms Padma Narayanan (Malaysia), Mr Hugh Dixon (New Zealand), Mr Vicente Hao Chin, Jr. (Philippines), Mrs Manize Sait (Singapore) and Dr C.V. Agarwal (Southeast Asia). The conference re-elected the President and Vice-President of the Federation (Mr Hao Chin Jr. and Dr. Agarwal, respectively). Dr Hugh Murdoch of

Australia is the Treasurer. The constitution of the federation was also amended in some respects. The next conference will be held in Malaysia in mid-December 1997 or January 1998.

The Federation President was one of the guests of the Australian Centenary Convention in January 1995. He conducted a seminar on meditation and spoke at a public symposium on 'Tolerance'. The Australian Section has extended to the Indo-Pacific Federation two scholarship grants to the Australian School of Theosophy in 1996 for both its sessions.

MR VICENTE HAO CHIN, JR.
President

INTER-AMERICAN FEDERATION

No Report

REPORTS OF LODGES ATTACHED TO ADYAR

COMILLA AND KUSUM (BANGLADESH)

No Report

HONG KONG

No Report

ISRAEL

DURING the year we held three introductory courses on Theosophy in Tel-Aviv and one in Jerusalem. Also three advanced courses were held in Tel-Aviv. A one-day seminar was held in April on 'Touching the Infinite Light and Remaining Human' with about 130 participants. Starting in July we have been studying *The Mahatma Letters* and *Light on the Path* in the fortnightly members' meetings. I was interviewed for two radio programmes

— on the theosophical view of death and on the essence of theosophical teachings. The interview lasted 20 to 30 minutes. Publication of our journal in Hebrew continued. All members of the Managing Committee, including the President and six members, were re-elected in the election held on 30 May 1995.

ABRAHAM ORON

President, Covenant Lodge

JAPAN

WITH the passing of Mrs Emiko Tanaka on 11 April 1995, the TS in Japan suffered a great loss as she was the prime mover of the work there for many years and had translated several theosophical books into Japanese and also published them at her own cost.

The publishing house started by Mrs Tanaka continues its activity and the publication of several new titles is planned for 1996. A new Lodge is being formed in Kyoto following Mr Pedro Oliveira's visit to that city.

MR JEFF CLARK

KOREA

WE have meetings twice a month and promote understanding through discussion among members, but we do not have any public programmes yet. Mr Lim, president of the Lodge, holds study classes on theosophical books

and will take up *The Secret Doctrine* during the coming year. We plan to celebrate the tenth anniversary of our Lodge in November 1995.

MR Y.C. KIM

Secretary, Korea Lodge

DIRECTORY

AND

MINUTES

OF THE MEETINGS OF THE

GENERAL COUNCIL

DIRECTORY

Ex-Officio Members of the General Council

President: Mrs Radha Burnier

Vice-President: Miss Mary Anderson

Secretary: Mr Pedro R.M. Oliveira

Treasurer: Mr D. K. Govindaraj

National Societies, Regional Associations and Presidential Agencies

Date of Formation	Name of Section	General Secretary	Address
1947	Africa, East & Central	... Mr Bhupendra R. Vora	... 55A 3rd Ave., Parklands PO Box 48507, Nairobi, Kenya
1909	Africa, South	... Mr T.G. Davis	... 22 Buffels Rd. Rietondale 0084, Pretoria
1956	Africa, West	... Mr P.B. Kwakyi	... PO Box 720, Accra, Ghana
1929	America, Central	... Miss Carmen Aguilar Alvarez	... 3a Calle 5-35 Zona 2 01002 Guatemala
1920	Argentina	... Mr Jorge Cesano	... Rivadavia 533, 2200 San Lorenzo, Santa Fe
1990	Asia, South East †	... Dr C. V. Agarwal	... The Theosophical Society, Varanasi 221 010 India
1895	Australia	... Mrs Beverley Champion	... 4th Fl., 484 Kent St., Sydney, NSW 2000
1912	Austria	... Mr Franz Durkowsitch	... Altmuhlweg 5/6, A-4810, Gmunden
1911	Belgium	... Dr H. van der Hecht	... 166 Rue de la Cambre, 1200 Brussels
1965	Bolivia †	... Mrs Teresa W. de Nuñez	... Casilla de Correo 3911, Cochabamba
1920	Brazil	... Mr Alfredo Puig Figueroa	... Sociedade Teosofica no Brasil, SGAS Quadra 603, No. 20, CEP 70200-630 Brasilia (DF)
1924	Canada *	... Mr Hugh Jackson	... 158 Crescent Rd. Apt. 311, Toronto, Ont. Canada M4W 1V2
1920	Chile	... Mr Carlos Ramirez Lohaus	... Casilla 3603, Santiago
1937	Colombia	... Mr Antonio Martinez Segura	... Cra. 6, No. 56-40, Bogota-2
1905	Cuba	... Dra Lelia Fernandez Pagola	... Lombillo 634, Apartado de Correos 6365, La Habana 10600
1918	Denmark †	... Mrs Edel Scharstein	... Kobmagergade 65, 2.th., 1150-Copenhagen K.
1888	England	... Miss Lilian Storey	... 50 Gloucester Place, London W1H 4EA
1907	Finland	... Mrs Kirsti Elo	... Vironkatu 7c2, 00170, Helsinki
1899	France	... Prof. C. T. Phan	... 4 Square Rapp, 75007 Paris
1902	Germany	... Ger Baron v.d. Osten-Sacken	... Freiligrath-Ring 6, D-40878 Ratingen
1928	Greece	... Mr P. Anagnostou	... 25 Voukourestiou St., 106 71-Athens
1907	Hungary †	... Mr Laszlo Reicher	... Bajcsy-Zsilinszky ut 51, H-1065 Budapest VI
1921	Iceland	... Mr Einar Adalsteinsson	... PO Box 1257 Ingolfssstraeti 22, 121 Reykjavik
1891	India	... Mr M. P. Singhal	... The Theosophical Society, Varanasi 221 010
1912	Indonesia	... Mr H.M. Soesiswo	... Jalan Oto Iskandardinata III/G. 336, Jatinegara, Jakarta 13340, Timur
1949	Ireland N. *	... Mr John Doherty	... 30, Hillsborough Drive, Off Woodstock Rd., Belfast BT 69 DS

1919	Ireland, Rep. †	... Mrs W. Woods	... 31 Pembroke Road, Dublin 4
1902	Italy	... Mr Antonio Girardi	... Corso S. Felice e S. Fortunato 256, 36100 Vicenza
1919	Mexico	... Ms Lissette Arroyo Jimenez	... Ignacio Mariscal 126 Col. Tabacalera C.P. 06470 Mexico 1, D.F.
1897	Netherlands	... Ms Ali Ritsema	... Tolstraat 154, 1074 VM Amsterdam
1896	New Zealand	... Mr Gavin Laurie	... 18, Belvedere Street, Epsom, Auckland 3
1913	Norway	... Mr Torstein A. Tobiassen	... PO Box 2889, Toyen 0608 Oslo 6
1948	Pakistan †	... Mrs Gool K. Minwalla	... Jamshed Memorial Hall, M.A. Jinna Road, Karachi
1924	Peru †	... Mr Julio Gerardo Pomar	... Jr. Republic de Portugal 152, Brena, Lima-100, S.America
1933	Philippines, The	... Mr Vicente Haó Chin, Jr.	... Corner P. Florentino and Iba Streets, Quezon City
1921	Portugal	... Dr Humberto Alvares da Costa	... Campo Martires da Pàtria 69, r/c-Dto., 1150 Lisboa
1994	Russia †	... Mrs Nina Veligon	... Pereulok Soviet House 4 Flat 56, 455036 Magnitogorsk
1925	Puerto Rico	... Mr Wilfredo Diaz Cordero	... GPO Box 1766 San Juan, 00936--1766.
1910	Scotland †	... Mrs Margaret T. Senior	... 12 Granary Park, Rafford, by Forres, Morayshire, IV 36 OJZ
1992	Slovenia *	... Dr (Mrs) Cveta Staric	... Celovska Cesta 99 B, SLO - 61000 Ljubljana
1921	Spain	... Miss Maria Carmen Cesar Galante...	... Virgen de Iciar 15 - 1° A, 28220 Madrid
1926	Sri Lanka	... Mr Melwin Herath	... 24/A Shady Grove Av., Colombo 8
1895	Sweden	... Mrs Ing-Britt Wiklund	... Kalle Posts vag 48, S-702 29 Orebro
1910	Switzerland	... Mr Edwin Nathan	... 9, Avenue Eugene-Pittard, 1206 Geneva
1886	USA	... Dr John Algeo	... PO Box 270, Wheaton, IL. 60189-0270
1925	Uruguay	... Ms Thelma Cestau	... Javier Barrios Amorin 1085 Casilla de Correos 1553, Montevideo
1953	Venezuela †	... Miss Mariela Lasso Salas	... Calle 59A No. 78-70, Santafe de Bogota Colombia, S. America
1922	Wales *	... Mr Malcolm Tanner	... 8 Millbrook Close, Dinas Powys Cardiff CF6 4DD, S.Glamorgan U.K

European Federation of National Societs

Chairman:

Miss Tran-Thi-Kim-Dieu, 67 Rue de Pommiers,
45000 Orleans, France

Inter-American Theosophical Federation:

President:

Mr Ulisses Resende, SGAS Quadra 603, no. 20
CEP-70200-630, Brasilia (DF) Brazil.

Indo-Pacific Theosophical Federation:

President:

Mr V. Haó Chin, Jr., Corner P. Florentino
and Iba Streets, Quezon City, The Philippines

* Regional Association

† Presidential Agency

Additional Members of the General Council

MRS NORMA Y. SASTRY, The Theosophical Society, Adyar, Madras 600 020, India
(for 1994, 1995 and 1996)

MR CONRAD JAMIESON, The Theosophical Society, Adyar, Madras 600 020, India
(for 1995, 1996 and 1997)

MISS TRAN THI KIM DIÊU, 67 Rue des Pommiers, 45000 Orleans, France (for
1995, 1996 and 1997)

MR GUIDO HASS, International Theosophical Centre, Valkeveenselaan 19, 1411
GT Naarden, the Netherlands (for 1995, 1996 and 1997)

MR SURENDRA NARAYAN, X-7 Haus Khas, New Delhi 110 016, India (for 1996,
1997 and 1998)

MISS JOY MILLS, 22 Krotona Hill, Ojai, CA 93023, USA (for 1996, 1997 and 1998)

MR CURT BERG, Sparrisbacken 63, S-165, Hasselby, Sweden (for 1996, 1997
and 1998)

MISS IANTHE HOSKINS, 37 Victoria Hill Road, Hextable, Swanley, Kent BR8 7LL,
England (for 1996, 1997 and 1998)

MR. S.S. VARMA, The Theosophical Society, Adyar, Madras 600 020, India (for
1996, 1997 and 1998)

DR HUGH SHEARMAN, 623 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 3LQ, U.K. (for
1996, 1997 and 1998)

MINUTES

Of the meeting of the General Council of the Theosophical Society held on Monday, 25 December 1995, at Adyar

PRESENT

Mrs Radha Burnier	<i>President (in the chair) and proxy for Cuba, West Africa, South Africa, Belgium, and East and Central Africa</i>
Mr Surendra Narayan	<i>Vice-President and proxy for Finland and Argentina</i>
Mr Pedro Oliveira	<i>Secretary and proxy for Australia, Brazil, Uruguay, Central America and Mexico</i>
Mr D.K. Govindaraj	<i>Treasurer</i>
Mr Antonio Girardi	<i>General Secretary, Italy</i>
Mr M.P. Singhal	<i>General Secretary, India</i>
Miss Mary Anderson	<i>Additional Member and proxy for U.S.A., Portugal, Austria, and Greece</i>
Miss Tran-Thi-Kim-Diêu	<i>Additional Member and proxy for the Netherlands, France, Mr Curt Berg, and Miss Ianthe Hoskins</i>
Mr Conrad Jamieson	<i>Additional Member and proxy for New Zealand</i>
Mrs Norma Y. Sastry	<i>Additional Member</i>

Present by invitation as Observer:

Mr C.P. Robertson Dunn *East and Central Africa*

The President warmly welcomed the members of the General Council and observer present.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held at Adyar on 25 and 31 December 1994, having been previously circulated, were confirmed.

2. Matters arising out of the minutes

(a) Minimum Qualifications for a National Society

It was pointed out that item No. 9 of the Essential Elements in Rules of

Sections, approved by the General Council at its meeting on 25 December 1994, states the following minimum qualifications for a National Society to be recognized as such by the International Society besides what is mentioned in Rule 36(d) and Rule 38: the annual report of the National Society, the audited statement of accounts, and statistics of lodges and members shall be sent every year not later than the first day of November to the President; fifteen percent of the annual fees shall be remitted to the International Treasurer before the first day of March of the current year.

(b) Australian Section Proposals

The pending proposals from the Australian Section were discussed:

- (i) The use of gender-free language in the three Objects of the Society;
- (ii) Inclusion of a clause in the international Rules and Regulations to ensure that cancellation of a Section's Charter is fully justified, for example, by providing for a three-fourths vote of the members of the General Council.

Regarding proposal (i) it was pointed out that as the objects of the Society are incorporated in the Memorandum of Association under which the Society was registered in 1905 with the concerned governmental authority, legal complications would arise if changes in the Memorandum were sought to be made.

Proposal (ii) was considered in its several implications. Past experience has shown that crisis situations arise suddenly, seriously threatening the integrity of the TS in certain countries, making it necessary for the President to act promptly, after due consultation.

After discussion, it was decided not to accept the above-mentioned proposals.

(c) Membership Decline

The President said that unfortunately the decline in membership continued in several Sections, but there was no further decline in the total membership as compared to the previous year.

The following points were brought out in discussion: There is a need to present Theosophy at different levels: to children and less educated persons in a simple, entertaining way; to the religious-minded by pointing out theosophical principles underlying the different religions, and stressing their essential unity; to those of devotional temperament by highlighting the theosophical books on the path; to intellectuals by drawing attention to the deep philosophy; and so on. A one-sided approach leaves out the others. Without a spirit of a vital brotherliness also, a merely intellectual study of Theosophy shuts off inspiration and the joy of being engaged in a common task.

3. Confirmation of Voting

(a) *Amendment to the Rules and Regulations of the TS*

The following amendment had been circulated for voting (change in italics):

Appendix B — Voting Procedure for a Presidential Election, clause (d)
— addition at the end:

Provided further that Form C, duly signed by the General Secretary, may be sent by fax, within the time limit mentioned above.

The result of the voting was:

<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstained</i>	<i>Invalid</i>	<i>Total</i>
35	—	—	—	35

Having received the required number of votes, the above amendment to Appendix B — Voting Procedure for a Presidential Election was declared adopted.

(b) *Election of Miss Mary Anderson as Vice-President for the years 1996, 1997 and 1998*

The President had nominated Miss Mary Anderson as Vice-President under Rule 11(a) of the Rules and Regulations. The result of the voting was:

<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstained</i>	<i>Invalid</i>	<i>Total</i>
34	—	2	—	36

Miss Mary Anderson was declared elected as Vice-President of the Theosophical Society for the years 1996, 1997 and 1998.

(c) *Election of Additional Members for the years 1996, 1997 and 1998*

The President had nominated Mr Surendra Narayan, Miss Joy Mills, Mr Curt Berg, Miss Ianthe Hoskins, Mr S.S. Varma and Dr Hugh Shearman under Rule 2(b) of the Rules and Regulations as Additional Members of the General Council.

The result of the voting was:

	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstained</i>	<i>Invalid</i>	<i>Total</i>
Mr Surendra Narayan	36	—	—	—	36
Miss Joy Mills	36	—	—	—	36
Mr Curt Berg	35	—	1	—	36
Miss Ianthe Hoskins	35	—	1	—	36
Mr S.S. Varma	35	—	1	—	36
Dr Hugh Shearman	33	2	1	—	36

Mr Surendra Narayan, Miss Joy Mills, Mr Curt Berg, Miss Ianthe Hoskins,

Mr S.S. Varma, and Dr Hugh Shearman were declared elected as Additional Members of the General Council for the years 1996, 1997 and 1998.

4. Report of the Non-English Publications Fund Committee

The report for the year ending 30 September 1995, which had already been circulated, was presented by the Vice-President, Mr Surendra Narayan. No request was received for a grant from the Fund during the year. It was decided to encourage translation and publication of books chosen by the General Council in Vietnamese and suitable languages for Africa and Sri Lanka.

5. Report of the International Finance Committee

The Vice-President, Mr Surendra Narayan, presented the report of the International Finance Committee for the year ending 30 September 1995.

6. Report of the Executive Committee for the year ending 30 September 1995

Salient points from the minutes of the Executive Committee were presented.

The following were appointed as members of the Executive Committee for 1996:

Mrs Radha Burnier	<i>President</i>
Miss Mary Anderson	<i>Vice-President</i>
Mr Pedro Oliveira	<i>Secretary</i>
Mr D.K. Govindaraj	<i>Treasurer</i>
Mr Surendra Narayan	<i>General Council Member</i>
Mrs Norma Y. Sastry	<i>General Council Member</i>
Mr Conrad Jamieson	<i>General Council Member</i>
Mr K. Visvanathan	
Mr R.M. Tolani	

7. Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the Year ending 31 March 1995

The Treasurer's Report and accounts for the year ending 31 March 1995, which had been previously circulated, were considered. It was noted that the overall financial position of the Society continues to be satisfactory. The report and accounts were adopted.

8. Budget for the year ending 31 March 1997

The budget for the year ending 31 March 1997, which had been previously circulated, was considered and adopted.

9. Auditors for the year ending 31 March 1997

Messrs Fraser and Ross were appointed as auditors of the Theosophical Society for the year ending 31 March 1997 on the same terms and conditions as before.

10. Work around the World

(a) *Austria*

It was mentioned that for several years the number of lodges in this Section has been below the minimum stipulated in Rule 36(d). It is to be considered whether it is desirable to continue to provide voting rights to the General Secretary in such a case.

(b) *Puerto Rico and Pakistan*

It was pointed out that no reports, statistics, etc. are being received from Puerto Rico and Pakistan. There was a discussion on possible steps to remedy the situation.

(c) *Canada*

The President reported that Victoria Lodge had decided not to join the Canadian Federation. Direct affiliation to Adyar has ended.

(d) *Scotland*

It was reported that in Scotland draft rules were being prepared preliminary to the formation of a Regional Association.

(e) *Greece*

The General Secretary, Mr P. Anagnostou had addressed one letter to the President regarding the difficulties in the work there. A more regular communication with this Section is yet to be established.

(f) *Central America*

Implementation of the decision of the General Council made on 31 December 1994 is pending as a suitable person must be found to be the Presidential Representative for Costa Rica. Consultations with senior members in Latin America will be necessary.

(g) *Venezuela*

The President reported that after consultation with the President of the Inter-American Federation, she had appointed Miss Mariela Lasso Salas of Bogota, Colombia, as Presidential Representative for Venezuela. Miss Lasso will try to support and improve the work there and train some persons in the country to undertake administrative responsibility.

(h) *New Zealand*

The case involving the Christchurch branch is still before the court. An injunction application to restrain the breakaway group from using the Lodge's name had been dismissed.

(i) *Hungary*

The President reported that the Presidential Representative had requested cancellation of the diploma of membership of a member considered to be troublesome. After discussion, the Chairman of the European Federation was requested to make enquiries and recommend action to the President.

(j) *Bulgaria*

Mr Stefan Hinkov from Sofia, who had connections with the TS in Bulgaria before communist control, has been in correspondence with the President about the possibility of re-establishing the TS in that country. Theosophical books in Bulgarian were sent to him from Israel. Seventy applications for membership sent by Mr Hinkov were received at Adyar. After discussion it was decided to accept the applicants as Fellows-at-Large and provide them with guidance as to the nature of the Society's work, and any other possible help.

(k) *Vietnam*

Some Vietnamese members of the French Section were taking an initiative to revive theosophical work in Vietnam. The authorities might take a positive attitude if Theosophists undertook some philanthropic activity there. Towards this end, an appeal has been made for donations.

(l) *Croatia*

Application forms had been sent to enable some individual members of a group which seemed to be doing good work and have the right attitude to apply for admission as Fellows-at-large.

11. Any Other Business

Subba Row Medal

Miss Lilian Storey, General Secretary of the English Section proposed that the Subba Row Medal be awarded to Mr Geoffrey Farthing for his contribution to theosophical literature. The name of Dr Hugh Shearman, an author of long standing and repute, was also brought up as a suitable person for that award. The Council decided to award the Subba Row Medal to both Mr Farthing and Dr Shearman for their contributions to theosophical knowledge.

